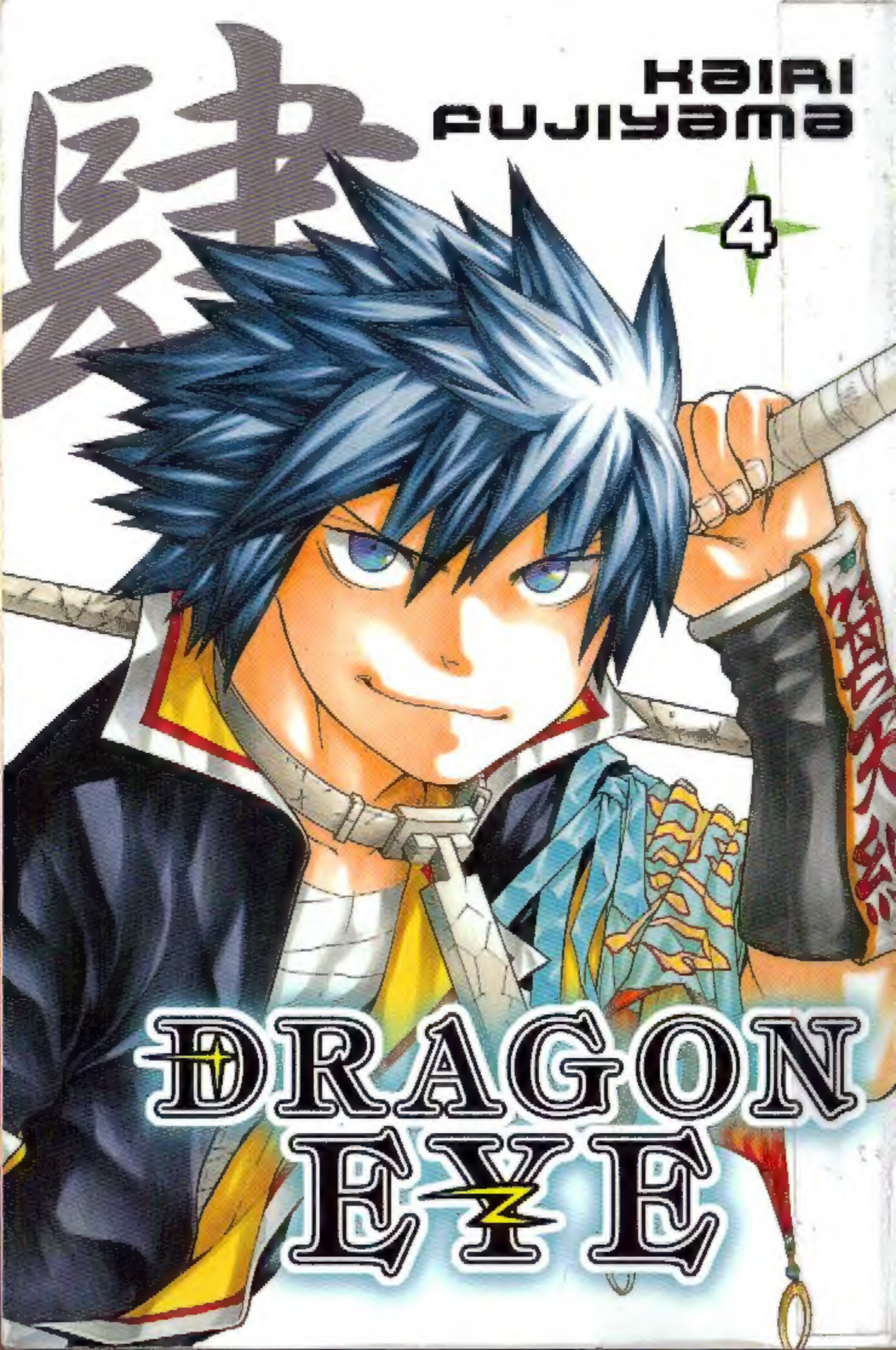
KAIAI FUJIYAMA

4



DRAGON EYE

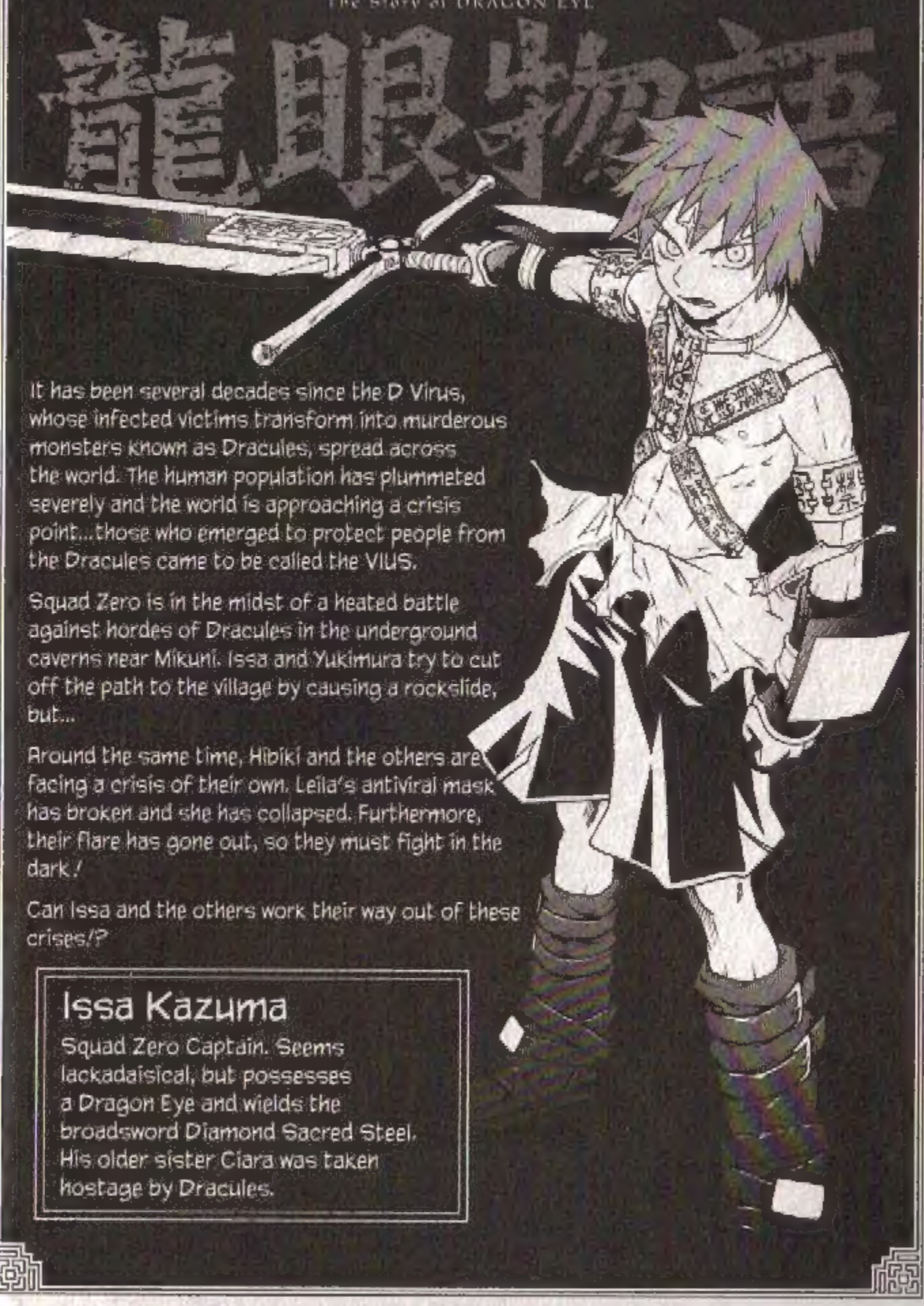
When I heard the editor in chief mention the word "Dracule," my first thought was "I can't believe a mature adult just used that word." I thought the same thing when I heard editor M.S.-san say it. I wonder why, when I'm the one drawing this manga.

= Dragon Eye =

Kairi Fujiyama

The Story of DRAGON EYE

龍眼物語



It has been several decades since the D Virus, whose infected victims transform into murderous monsters known as Dracules, spread across the world. The human population has plummeted severely and the world is approaching a crisis point...those who emerged to protect people from the Dracules came to be called the VIUS.

Squad Zero is in the midst of a heated battle against hordes of Dracules in the underground caverns near Mikuni. Issa and Yukimura try to cut off the path to the village by causing a rockslide, but...

Around the same time, Hibiki and the others are facing a crisis of their own. Leila's antiviral mask has broken and she has collapsed. Furthermore, their flare has gone out, so they must fight in the dark!

Can Issa and the others work their way out of these crises!?

Issa Kazuma

Squad Zero Captain. Seems lackadaisical, but possesses a Dragon Eye and wields the broadsword Diamond Sacred Steel. His older sister Ciara was taken hostage by Dracules.

Sōsei Yukimura

A former Squad Five member currently on temporary reassignment to Squad Zero. Believes Issa killed his twin sister—and so he wields twin blades in her memory and secretly plots for vengeance.

Leila Mikami

Newly inducted VIUS member. When she was little both her parents were killed by Dracules, and she alone survived. Her weapon of choice is the katana blade.

Kajiyama

Volunteer helper on loan from Squad Two. Uses rigged shells he invented himself that he fires from his bazooka. Has served on a mission with Issa once before.

Hibiki Masamune

Squad Six member. Volunteers as a helper on missions of the short-handed Squad Zero. Simultaneously wields the two giant blades he carries on his back in two-sword style.

Nanbu

Volunteer helper on loan from Squad Seven. Expert at unarmed combat, but can cast certain spells as well. His short staff can serve to enhance his spell power.

Sazanami

Volunteer helper on loan from Squad Three. Wields a waistband whip containing spell power.

Mission Ten
If You Should Ever Recall This Day Someday
5

Mission Eleven
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Mission Twelve
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125

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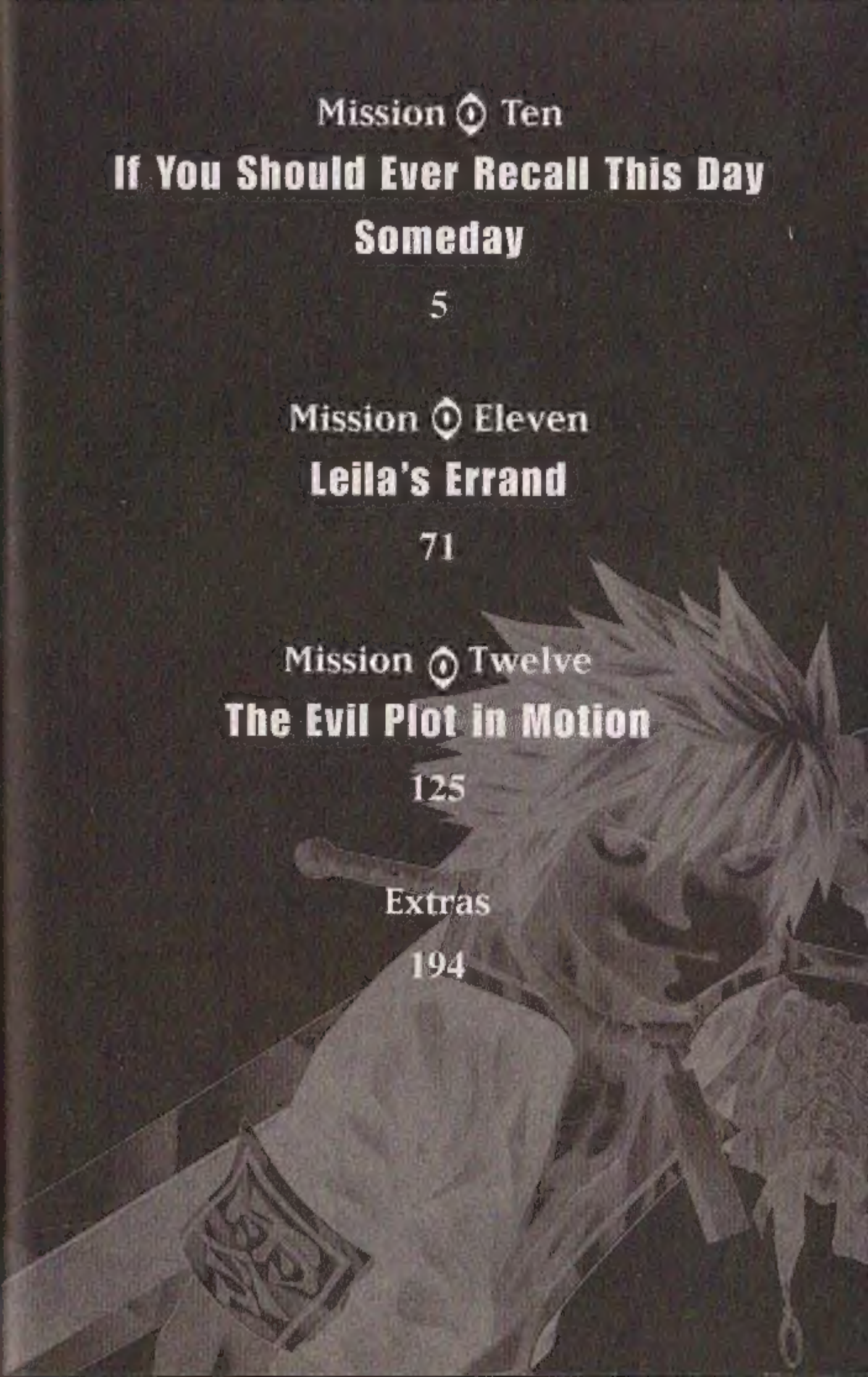
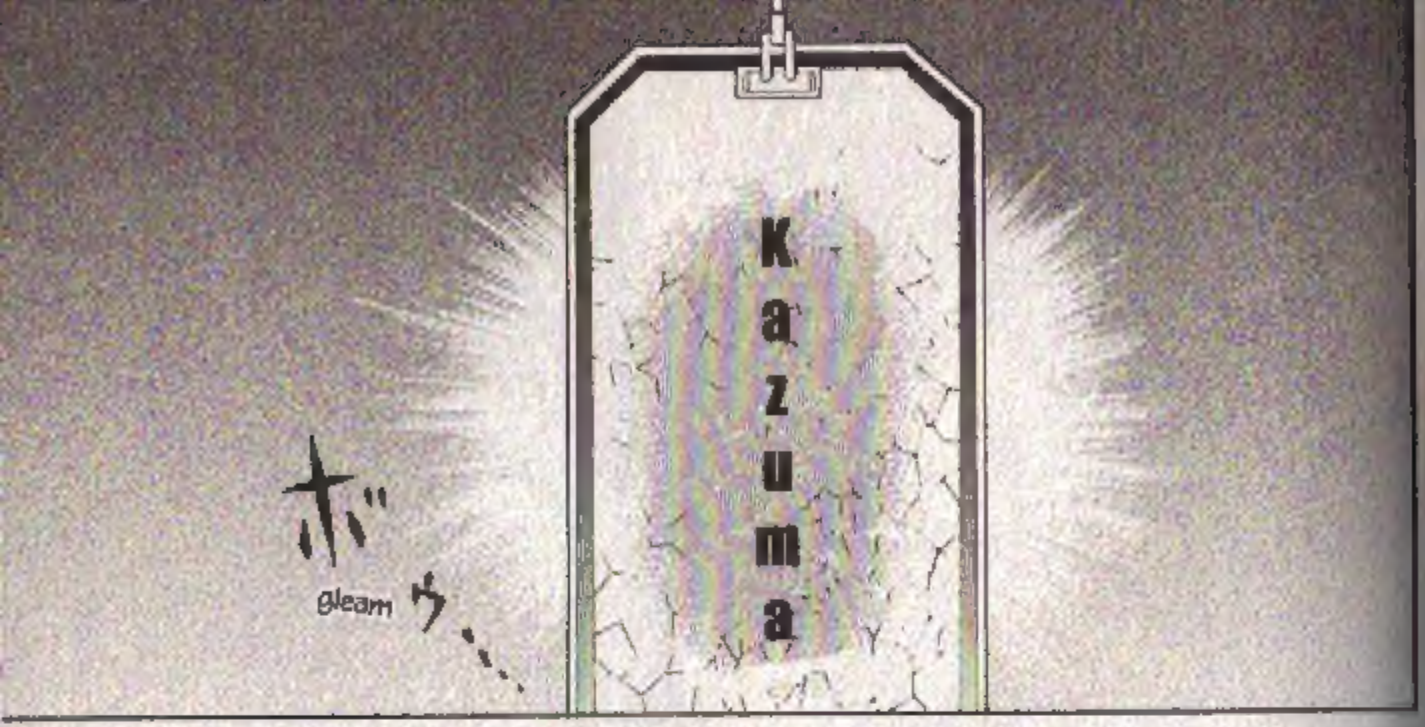
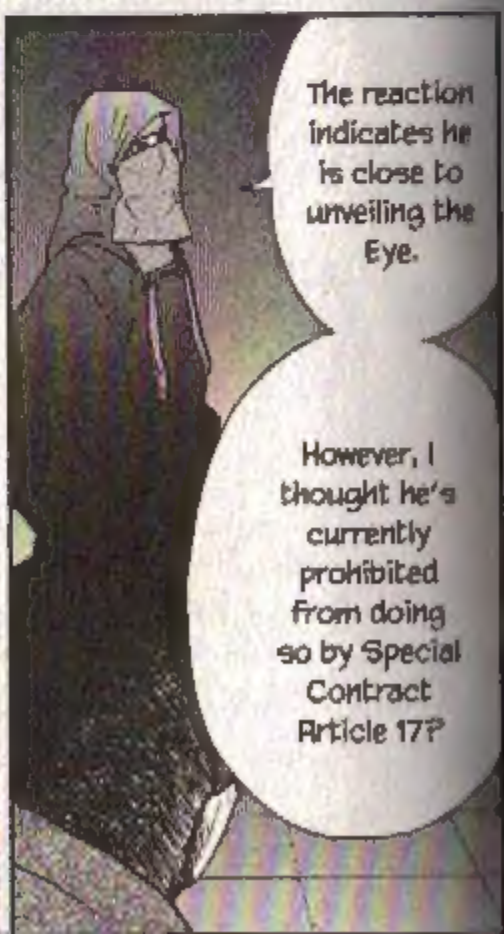



Kazuma
gleam

I believe this one... belongs to Squad Zero Captain Kazuma Issa?
glitter
The spell tag is displaying a weak reaction.

Keep watching that tag closely.
Humph. I suspected he'd violate it sooner or later, but I didn't think it would be so soon.


The reaction indicates he is close to unveiling the Eye.
However, I thought he's currently prohibited from doing so by Special Contract Article 17?

Mission 10

If You Should Ever Recall This Day Someday

When it glows red,

Kazuma

a

and I shall exile him from Mikuni for eternity.

it means Kazuma has violated his special contract,

crash

crash

crash

crash

Ugh...no!! Got to focus!!

Ahhh!

Ssshh!

Ow!

Leda- Fight me!!

Stubborn!

slash

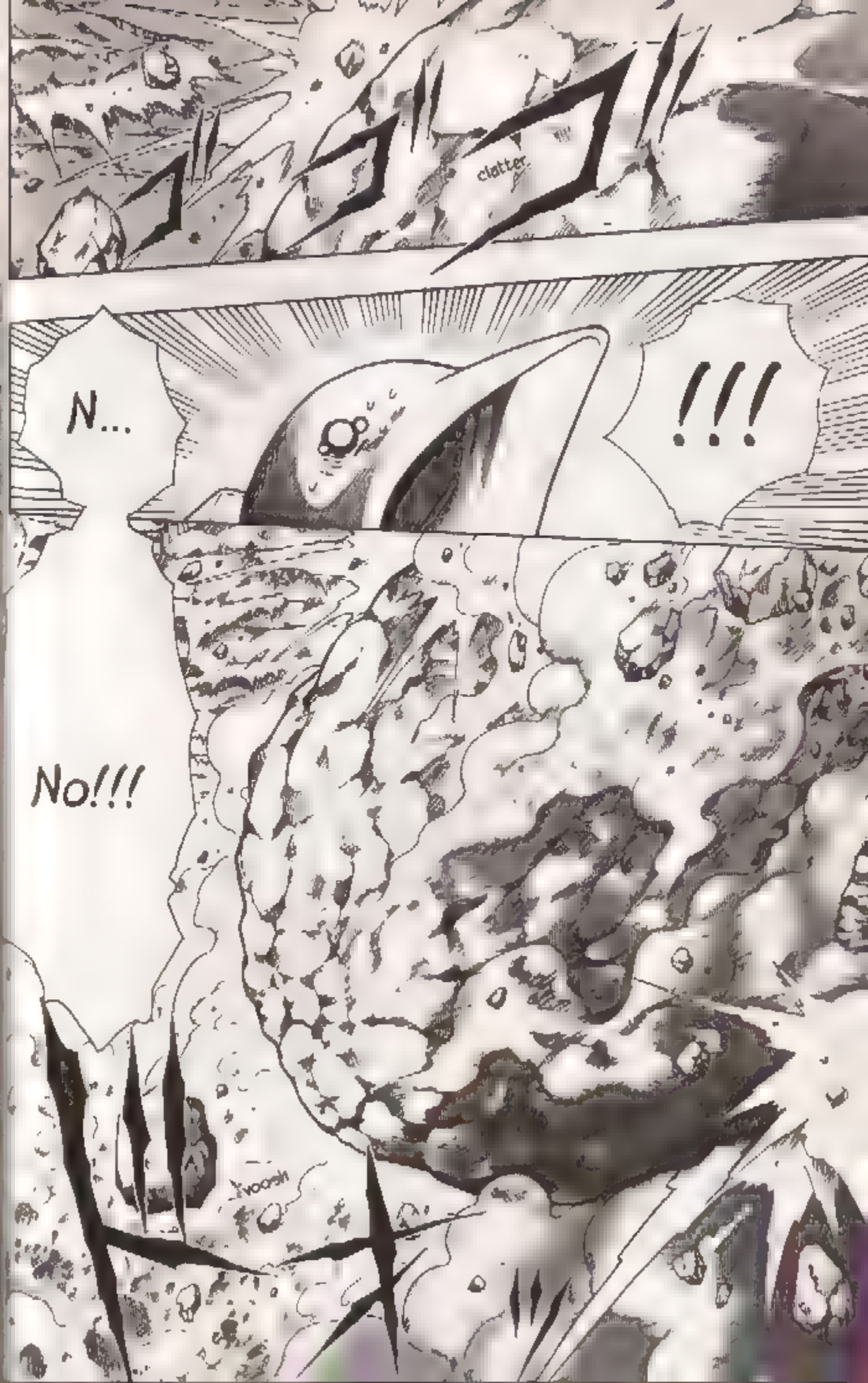
Collapse!!!

The ceiling's coming down!!

Retreat!! Everybody retreat!!

Kazuma !!
rrrumble
Hurry!!
rrrumble
If we can drop this boulder, the path will be completely blocked! It only needs one more nudge!!
You fool!
I told you to go on ahead!!
What the heck are you doing here?
What-ever! Just help me!!

Fine, darn it, just go!
Don't order me around!
stampede!!
Rrroar!!!

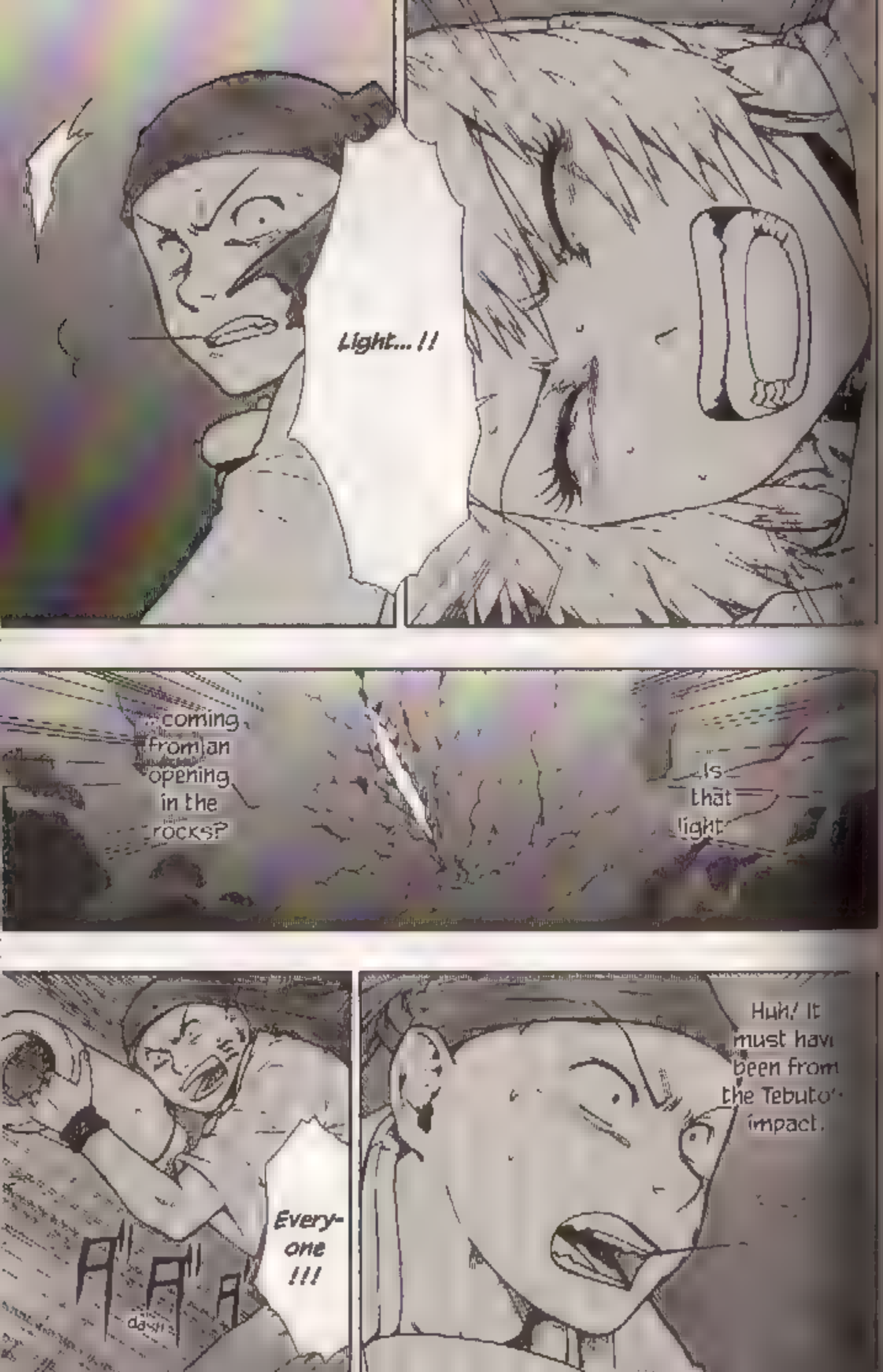

clatter
N...
!!!
No!!!
Woosh

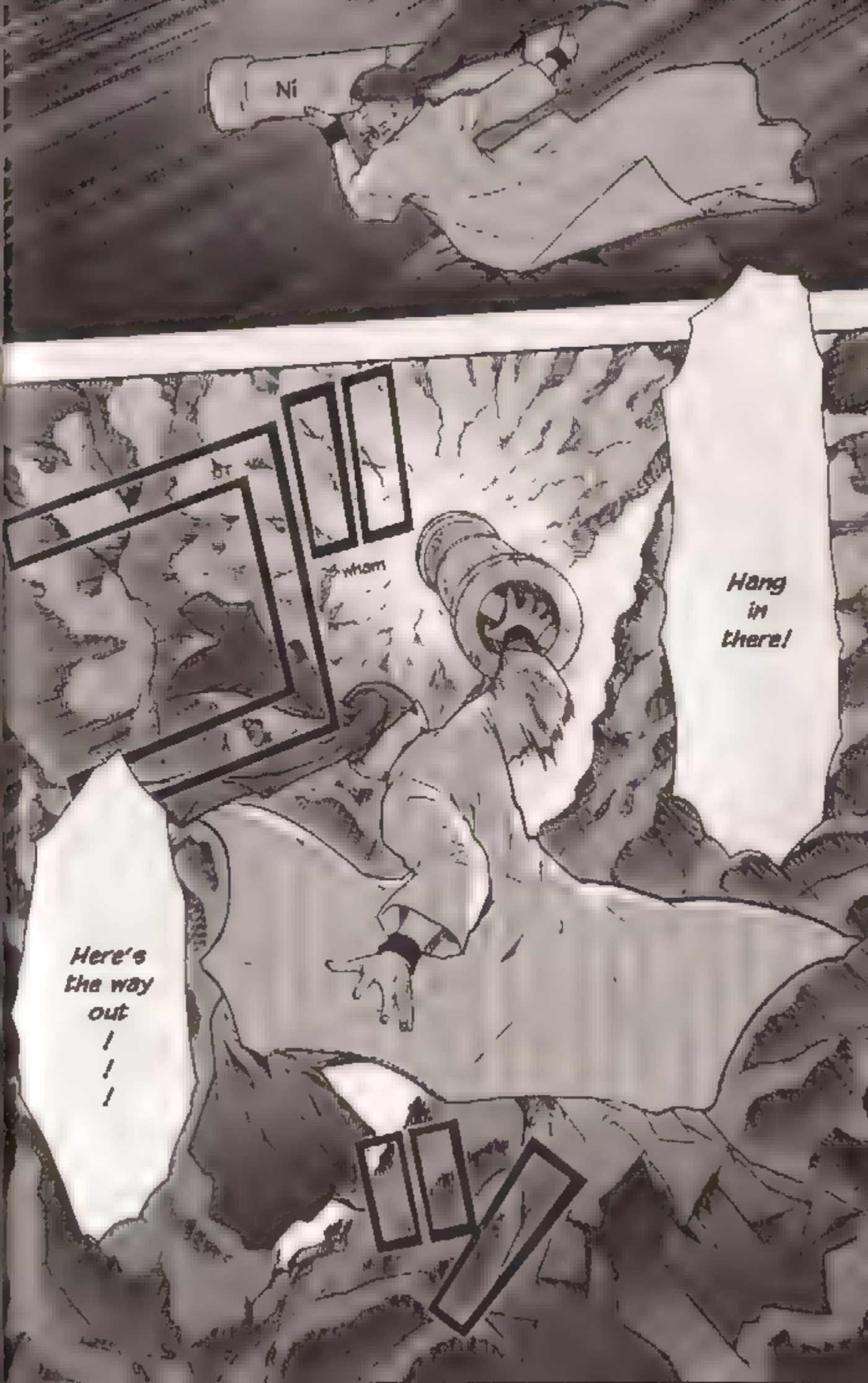
Issa-
kun
!!!

We're outta time!!

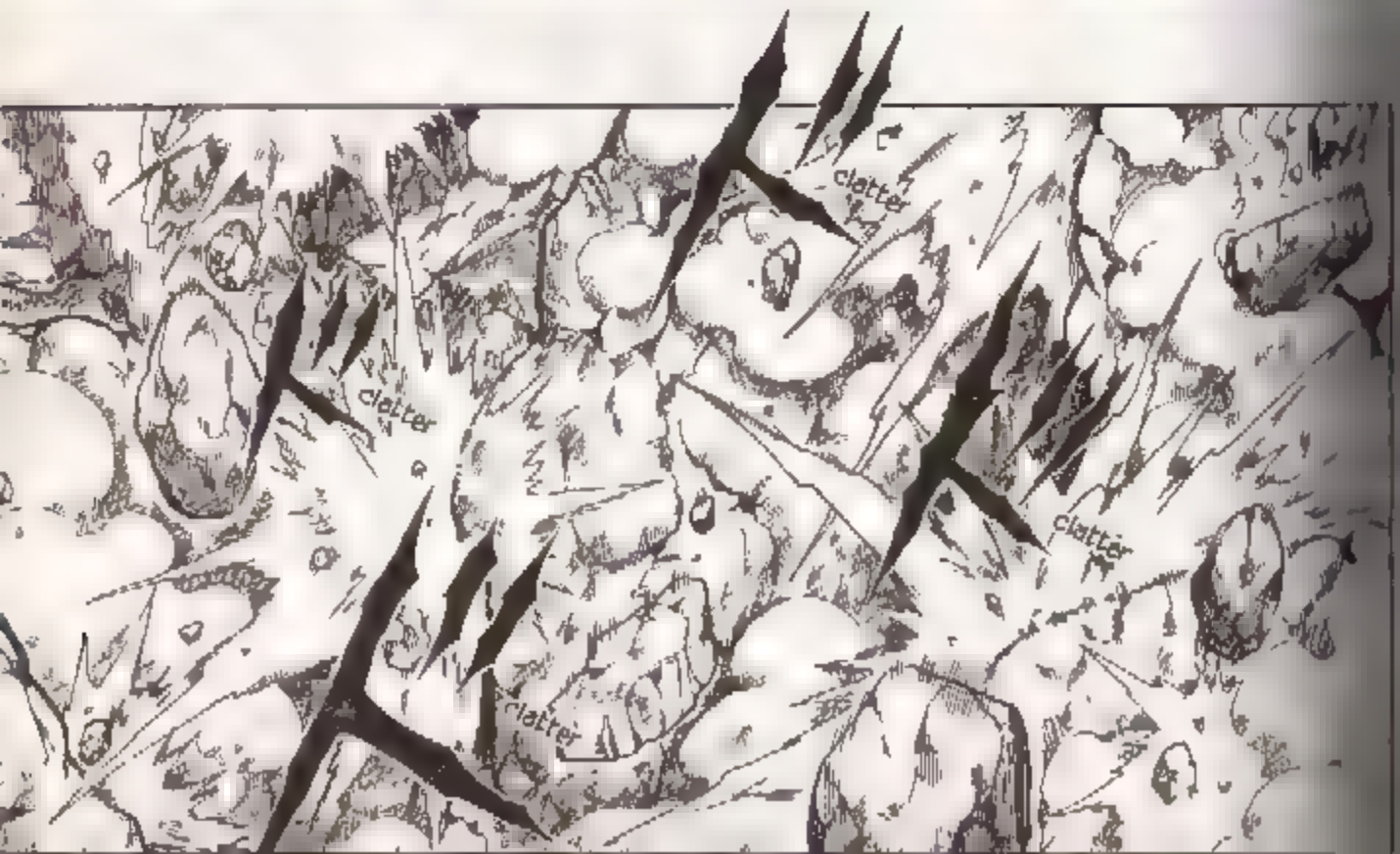
Just keep cutting them down! And find a way out of here!!
stab
thudd
Darn it, can't see a thing!!
slump
Don't tell me... viral blood poisoning...
I feel so stiff... faint...
Why... d... doe... my body.

No... can't fall here, now!!
!
L...ight...
outside
?
Can't... speak...
Every-body
!!
G... Gotta tell the others!..
C...Can't move, even though so close...
Ah...


Light...!!
...coming from an opening in the rocks?
Is that light
Every-one !!!
daylight
Huh! It must have been from the Tebuto's impact.


Ni
whom
Hang in there!
Here's the way out!!!

blaze


clatter
clatter
clatter
clatter

Let's go, Yukimura !!

My blade !!!

Yukimura, just give it up!

I can't!!

crumble

spasm

sh!!

grab

Beam of Death Persecution!!

flash
clatter
ラララ
clatter
We did it!!
!!?

sizzle
sizzle
krassssssh

rasp
rasp
rasp
rasp
Unnnh
stab
leap

fizzzzzz
tap
tap
...
What do you think you're doing?
Don't toy with a Dracule who's lost his fighting spirit.
It's long over, isn't it?

I know that.
But, hey...
... a monster's a monster, right?
Grr
H... Hey!
The little lass... !!

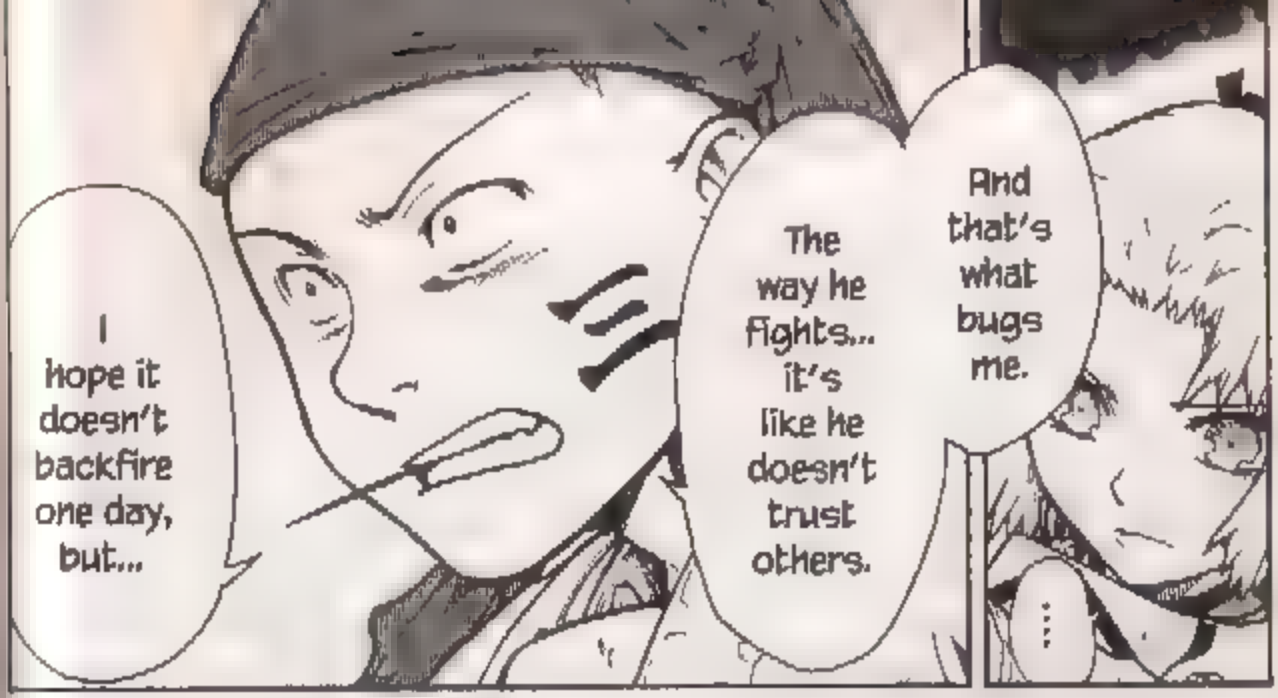
Yelp!
stomp
leap
Mikami chan!!
click
klak
kuak
whoosh
snap

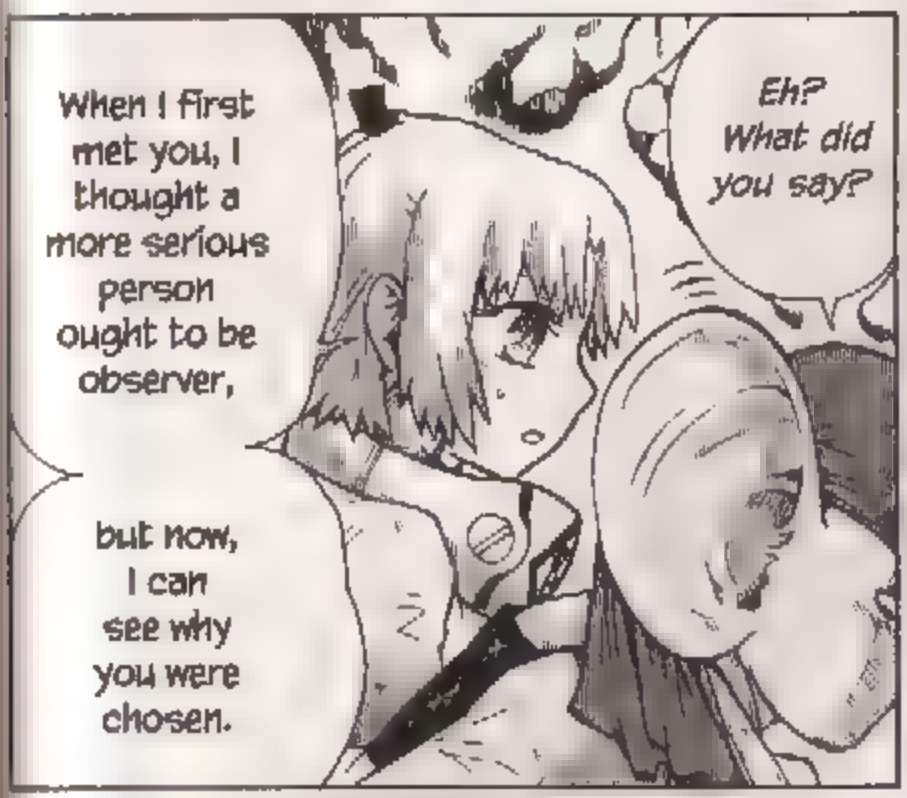
whoosh
Don't worry. She'll be all right after virus neutralization.
Viral blood poisoning. It looks like her mask broke.
What happened !!?
You're right! And it's not hard climbing!
Will you be OK without yours?
I've undergone poison-resistance training, so I'll be fine for a short while.
Hey! This leads above-ground!!

I'm... sorry... I...was careless...
wobble...
She's coming to!
Unh...
Me?
...Why?
I got... distracted. . by the sight of Hibiki-san. .
fighting alone...
The captain may be waiting for us at the rendezvous point.
Let's go.
Huh?
I'm fine alone.

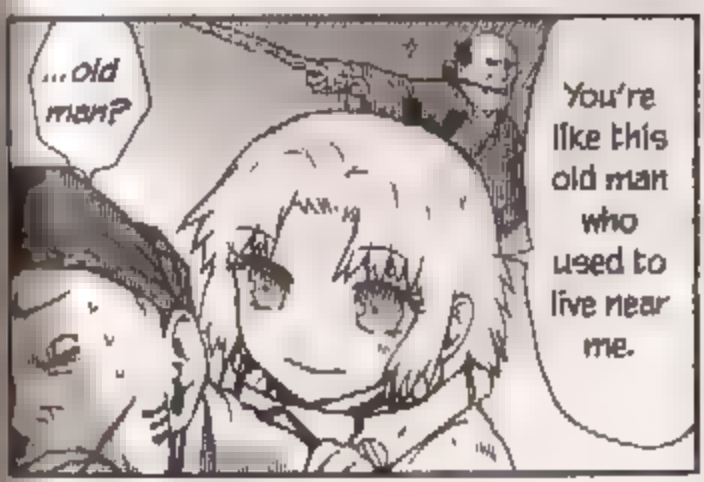
No, no! You shouldn't move until all of the poison is out of your system.
I...I can walk!
Sorry.
ひょい
hoist
Ooph
Aiee!
!
That quote... I know it, too. It's from a scroll that hangs in the practice room.
when embracing Mikuni in their heart, will gain infinite strength."
"A VIUS, even if alone...
.....
Me, too! I didn't really understand their meaning before...but now, I think I do.
I love them!
You've heard it? They're Master Shimon's words.

that he's a little reckless, and yet dependable...
How to say it...
I...I thought Hibiki-san was very similar to Iesa-kun.
Ever since the examination,
You know... I kinda agree with Hibiki's dogmatic approach too.
But actually, Hibiki-san...I think he fights alone.
!?
outstanding battle skills,
he's the first one I've seen since Kazuma-kun that has it all.
Except...
Plus, accurate judgment,
When on a mission, a lack of emotion is necessary.


I hope it doesn't backfire one day, but...
The way he fights... it's like he doesn't trust others.
And that's what bugs me.
...


When I first met you, I thought a more serious person ought to be observer,
but now, I can see why you were chosen.
Eh? What did you say?

You're pretty amazing too, Kajiyama-san.

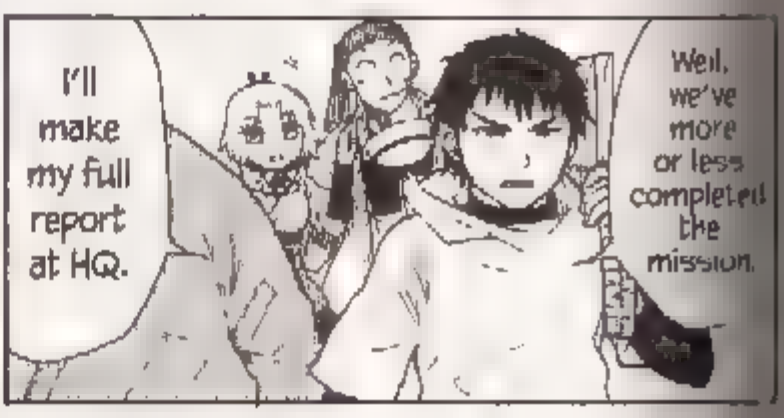

...old man?
You're like this old man who used to live near me.

Mikami-chan... I hope you're not falling for me...

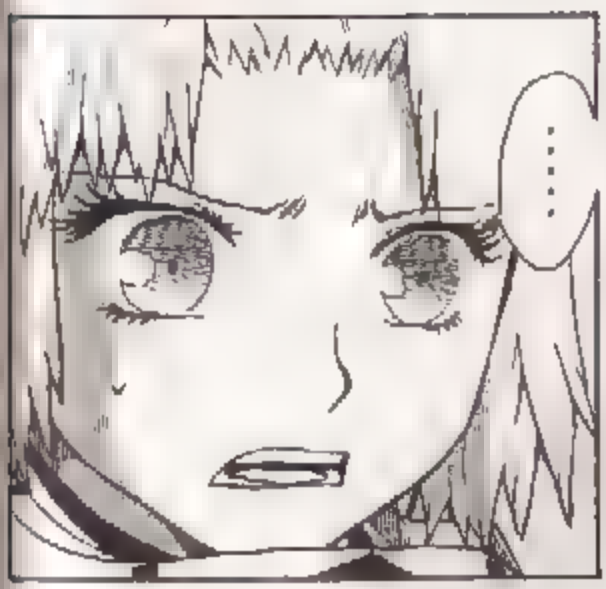
OVIUS

Um... where's the captain?

You were so late in returning that we were worried !!
I'm glad you all are all right!!


I'll make my full report at HQ.
Well, we've more or less completed the mission.

We thought you were all together... You got separated?
No.
He hasn't returned?
N...Not even any word?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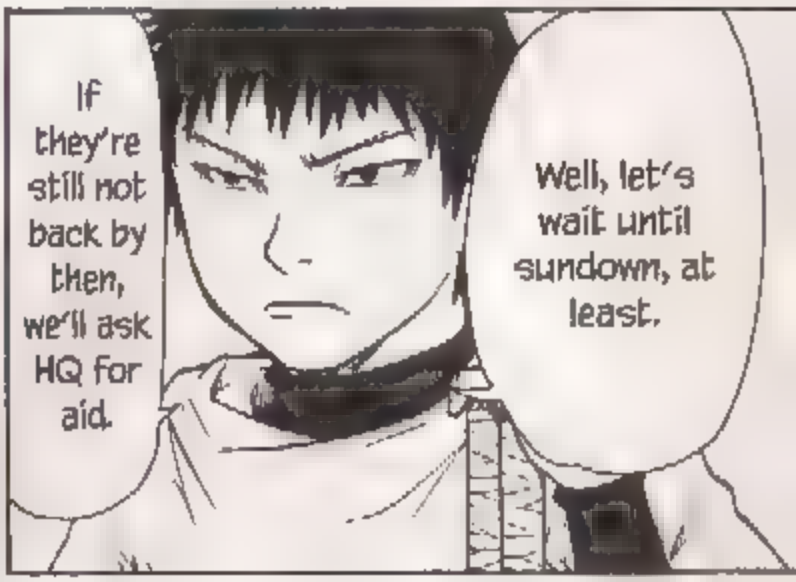
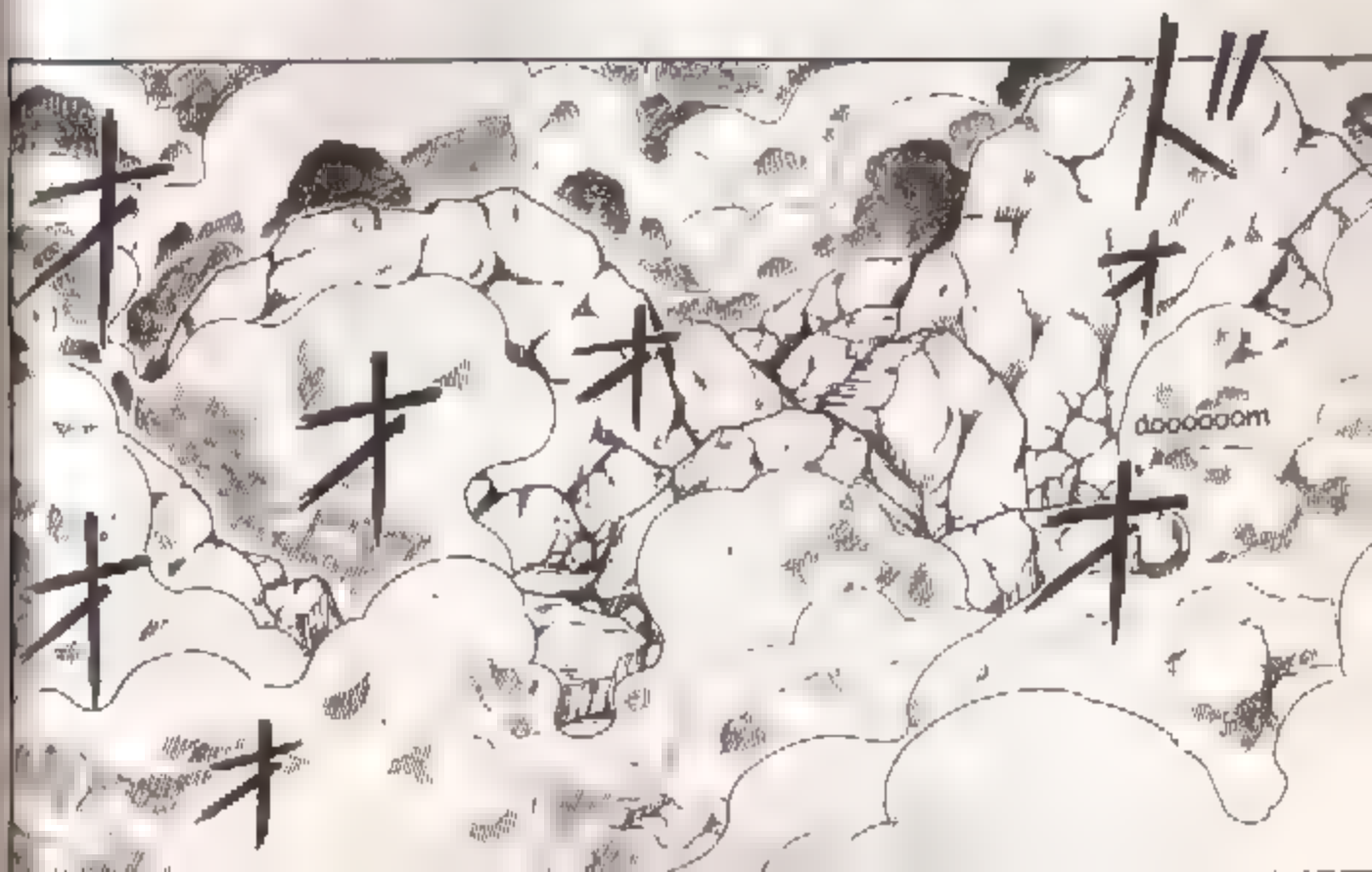
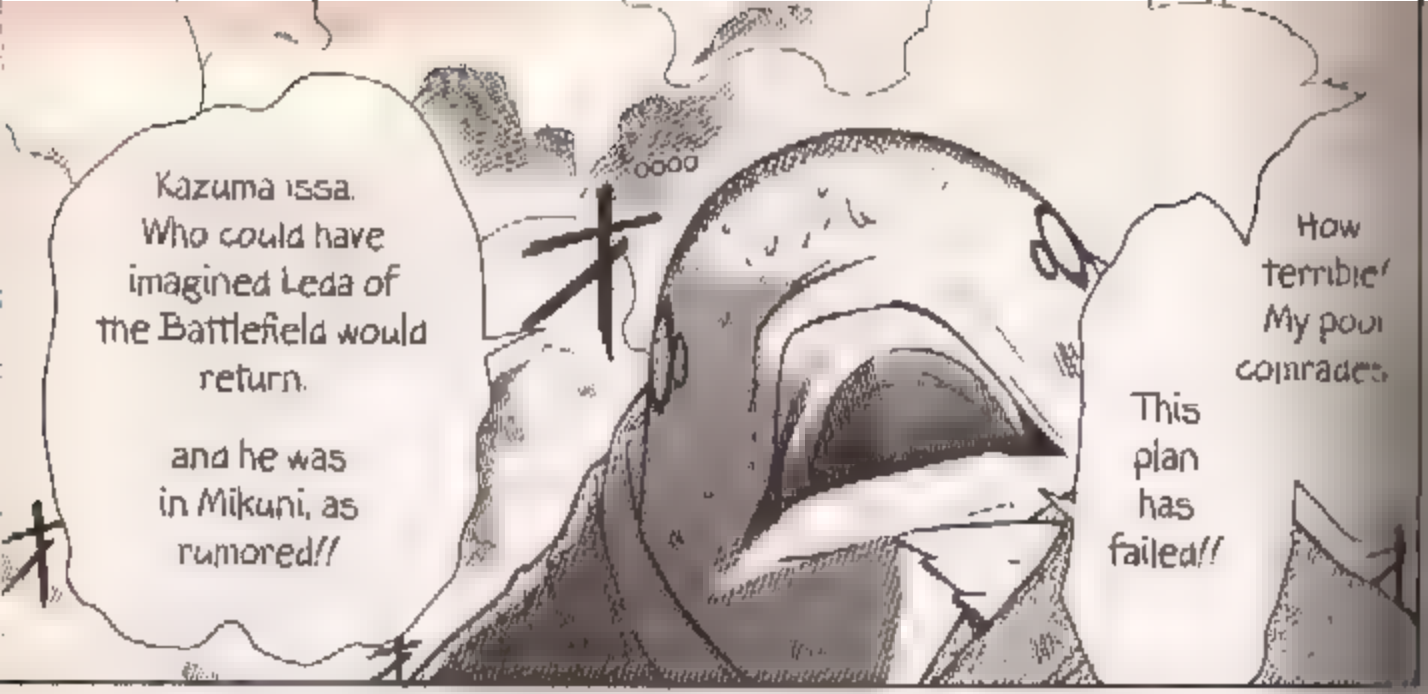

If they're still not back by then, we'll ask HQ for aid.
Well, let's wait until sundown, at least.

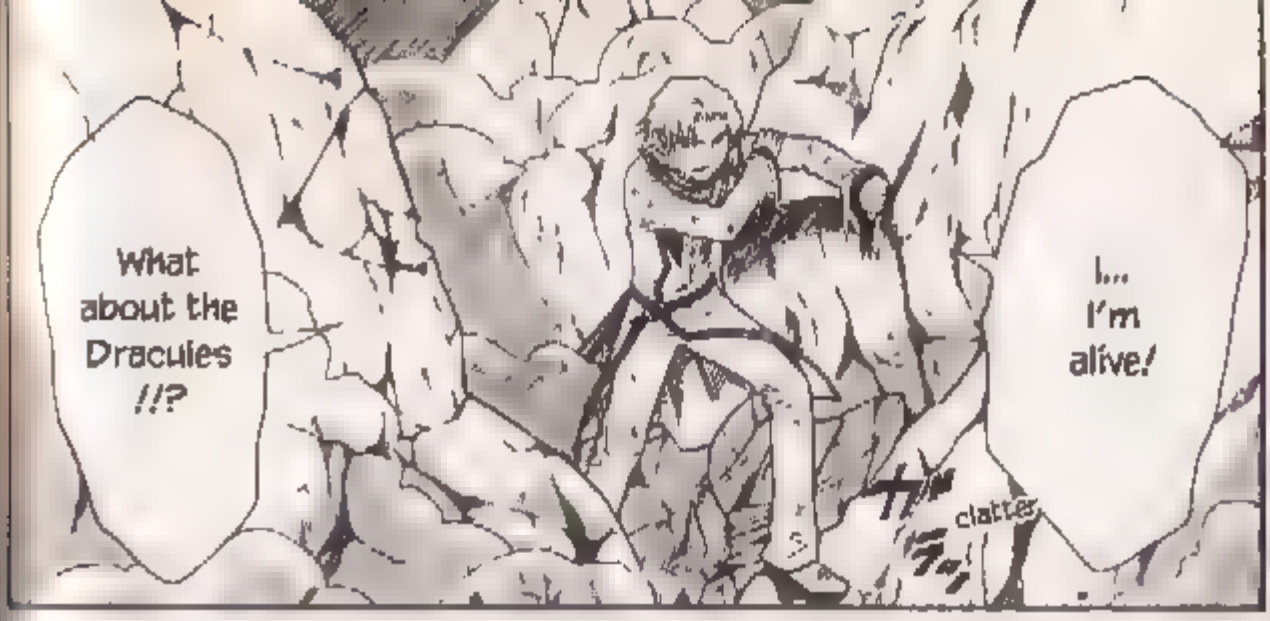

doooooom


Kazuma Issa. Who could have imagined Leda of the Battlefield would return.
and he was in Mikuni, as rumored!!
oooo
This plan has failed!!
How terrible! My poor comrades.

Mikuni a force to be feared!!
oooo
If they have survived, Mikuni will be alerted about us.

...Pant...
rattle
rattle

...Unh...


What about the Draculies !!?
I... I'm alive!
clatter

We protected the village!
We stopped them.

dooooom

It's almost a miracle that it worked!
That was the craziest plan I've ever been a part of!

thump

Wh... Where is he?
oh
!
H... Hey!
Grrrr
Don't tell me... when he covered for me...

Roar—!
kaboom

H... Huh?

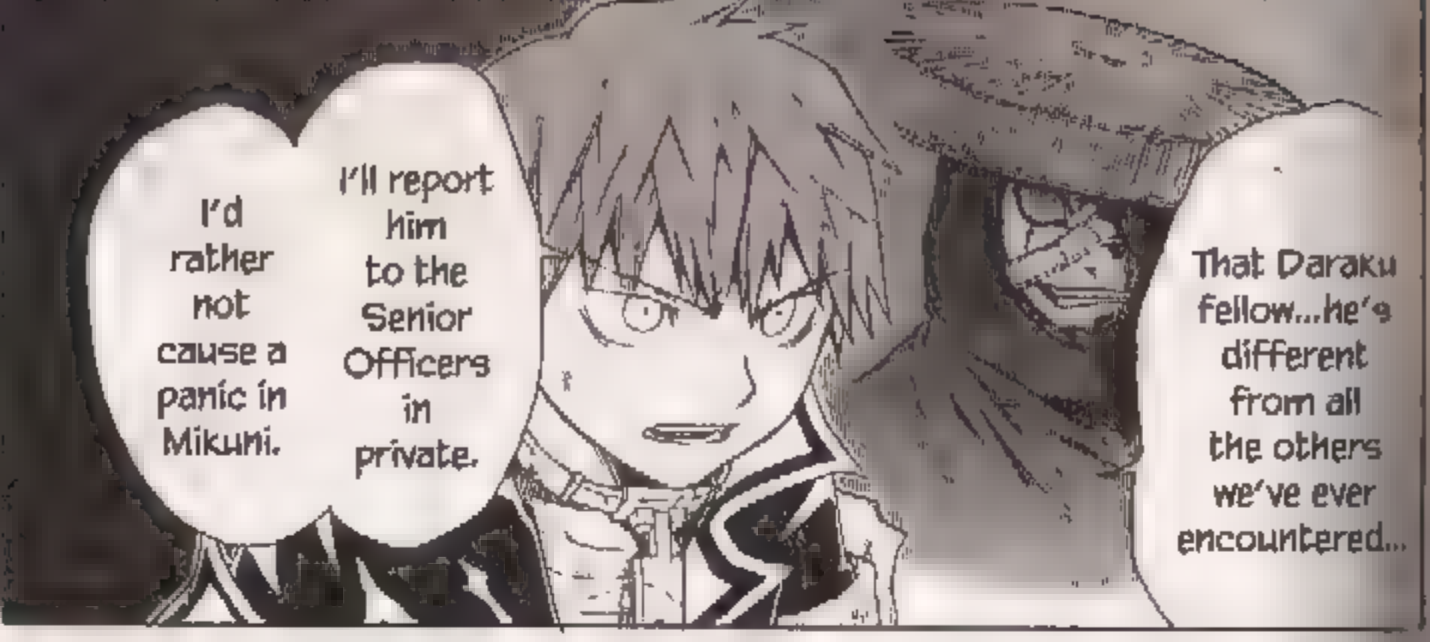
boom
Wh... Where are they—? The next ones—!!

Oh!
Yukimura!
You're
safe!
The Eye..
wasn't
unveiled!
A-hahahaha—!!!
I
can
go
back
to
Mikuni!
The Eye
wasn't
unveiled!!
We defeated
them!
Yes! We
protected
the village!!!

A-ha ha ha ha ha!
Yippee, Yukimura!! We won!! Woohoo!!!
One tiny misstep and...
Thanks to your reckless, crazy scheme, I'm amazed I'm still alive!!
No, not yippee !!
Yippee ?
...grr
But we are alive!

...ugh...
Forget it!! The more I talk to you, the stupider I get.
As long as I've got this one...
it's fine.
I guess.
the other one's lost. Sorry.
Even though our mission was full of unexpected problems,
Well, lucky you... it looks like you'll get to keep your captainship, after all.
.....

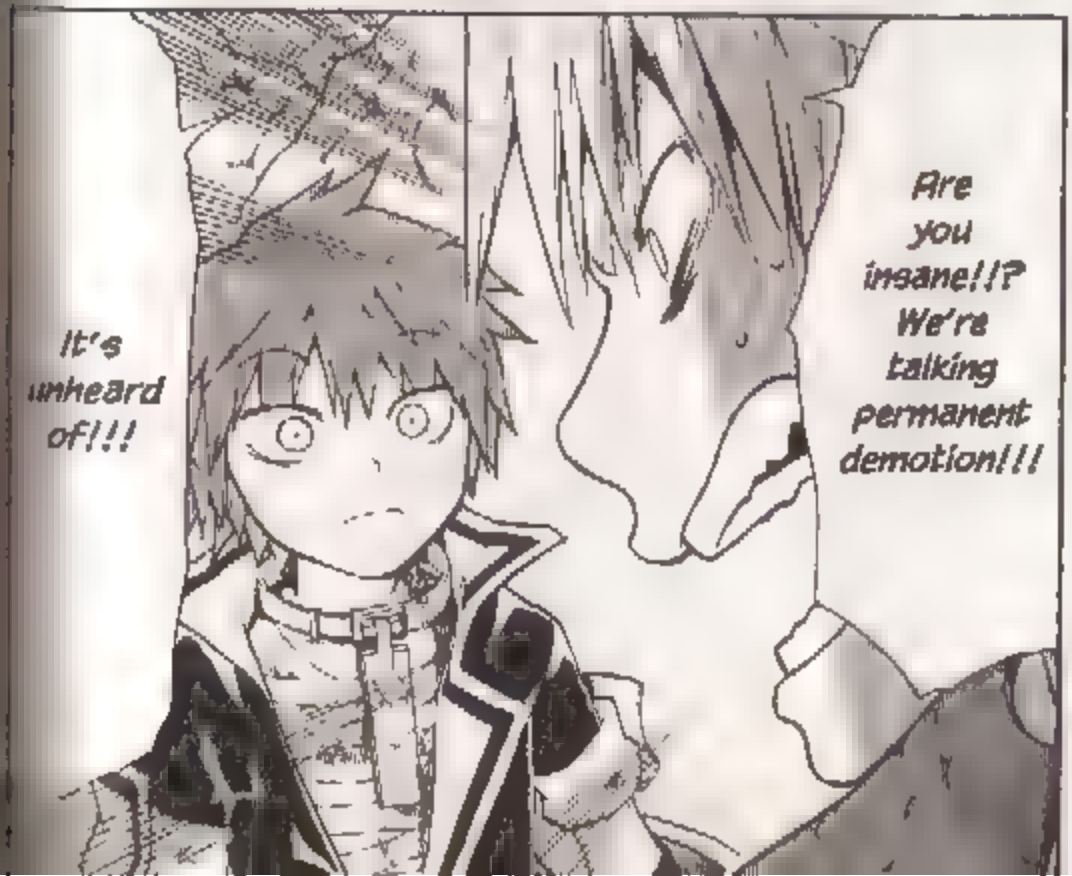
because of them, we were able to both glean intelligence about this "Daraku" bunch *and* stop their surprise assault.
It makes up for your blunders, and then some.
Oh, about that...
Do you mind
keeping everything we saw a secret from everybody else?
Huh?


That Daraku fellow...he's different from all the others we've ever encountered...
I'll report him to the Senior Officers in private.
I'd rather not cause a panic in Mikuni.

I'm fine with that... but are you sure?
It'll seal the coffin on your demotion.

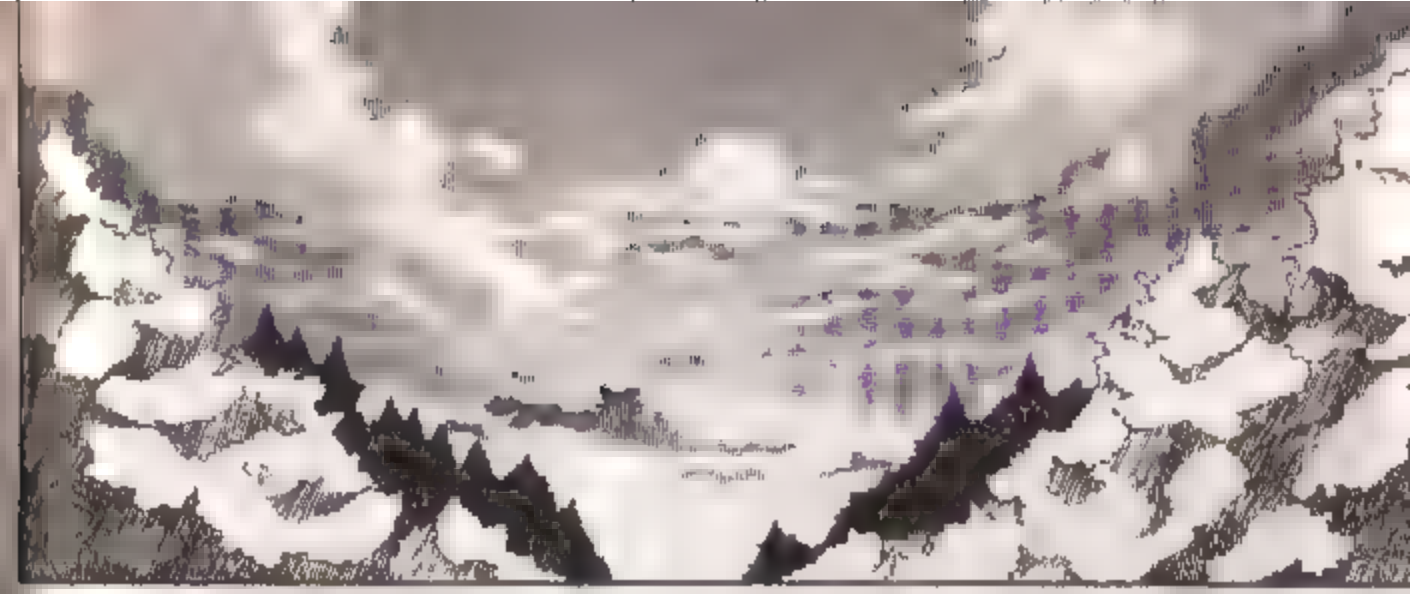
Your arbitrary actions put the team in danger.
Without any mitigating exploits, our superiors will have no choice but to reprimand you.
Hmm... demotion, huh...
scritch
scritch
Well...

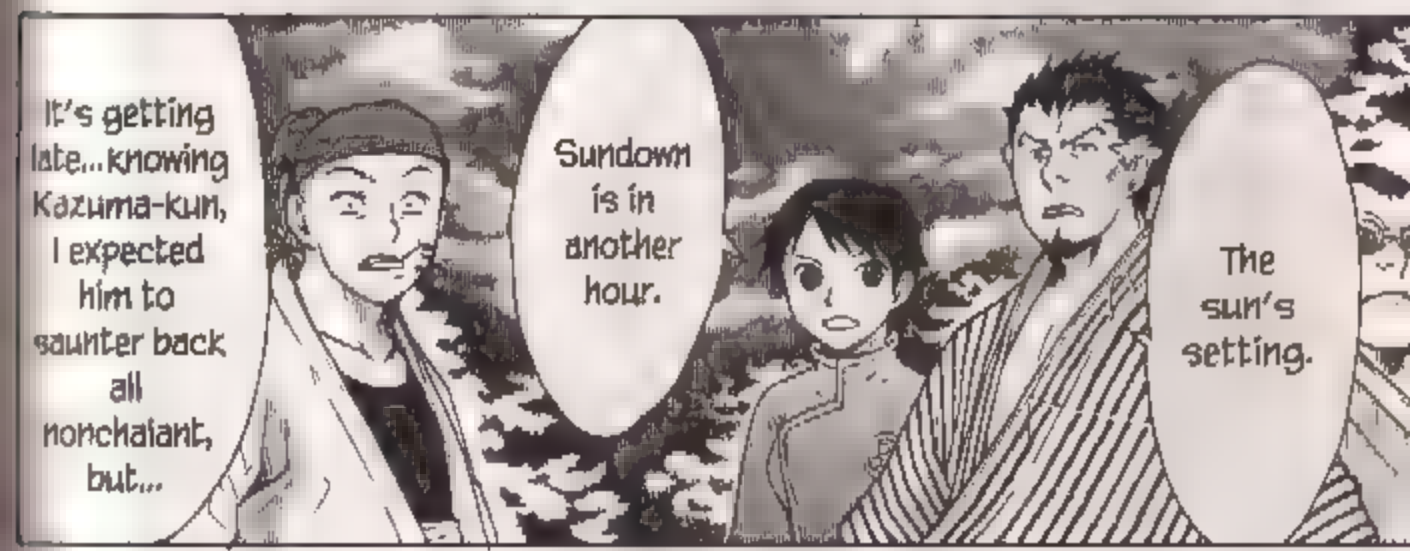
!?
I guess it's all right!
Since I can stay in Mikuni,


It's unheard of!!!
Are you insane!!? We're talking permanent demotion!!!

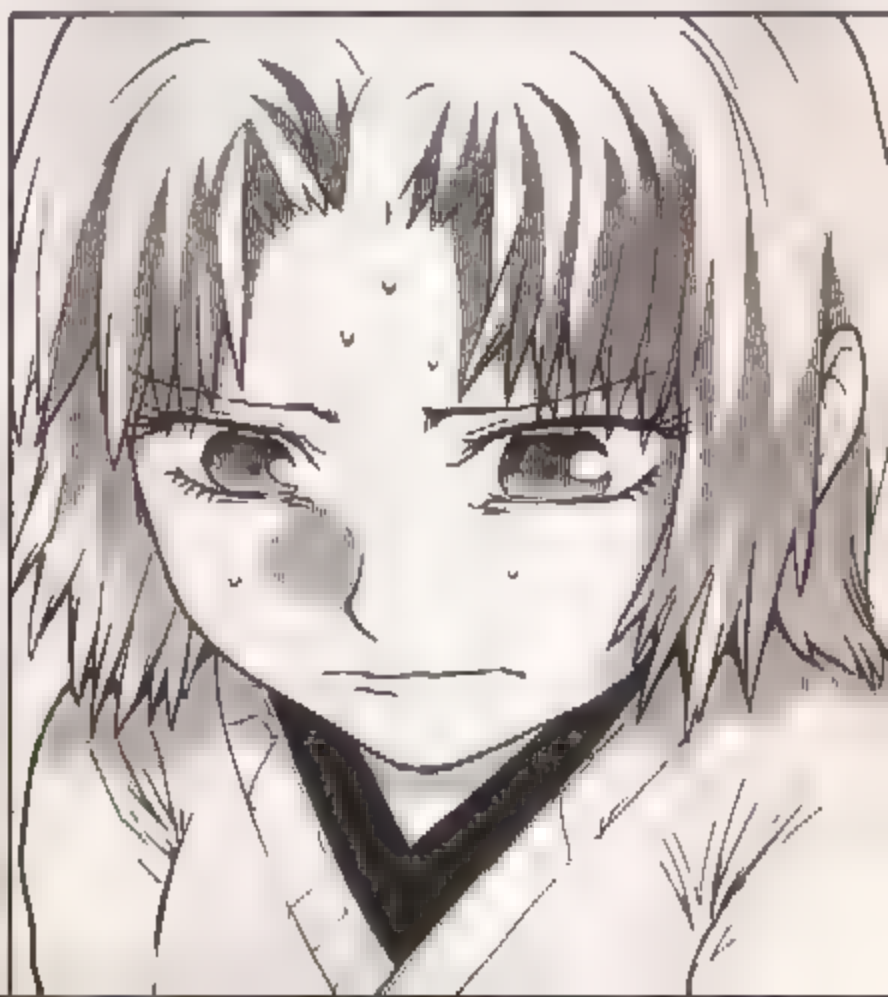
Wha...

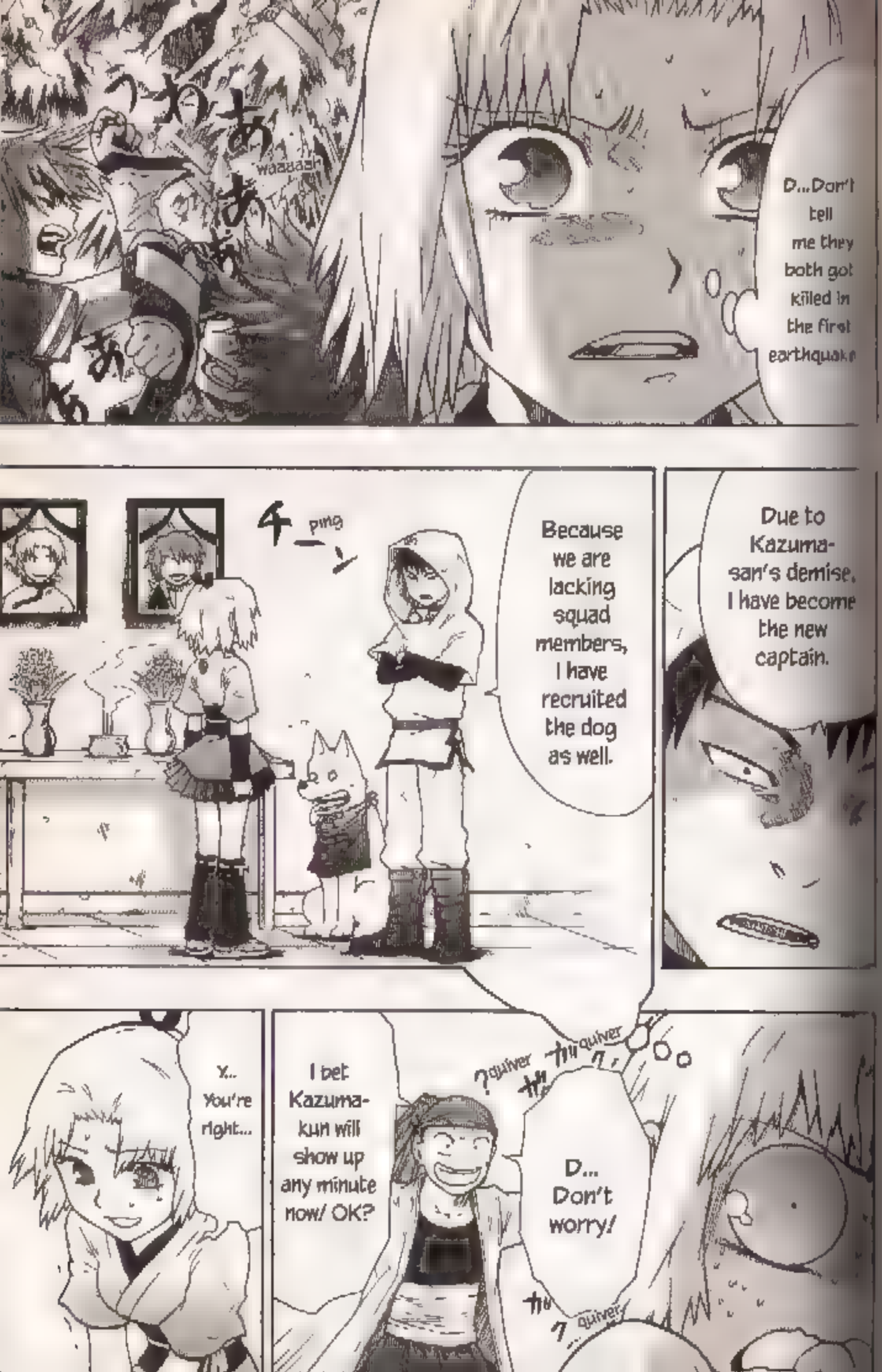
It's fine! I'm going home to Mikuni, alive.
Someone else can be captain!
plop
plop
Well... if it goes well, they might let me stay in Squad Zero!!
As a new squad member!
Now let's get out of here!
Ohhh...
.....
...And yet...
He's the type of person who lied about my sister's death to protect himself.



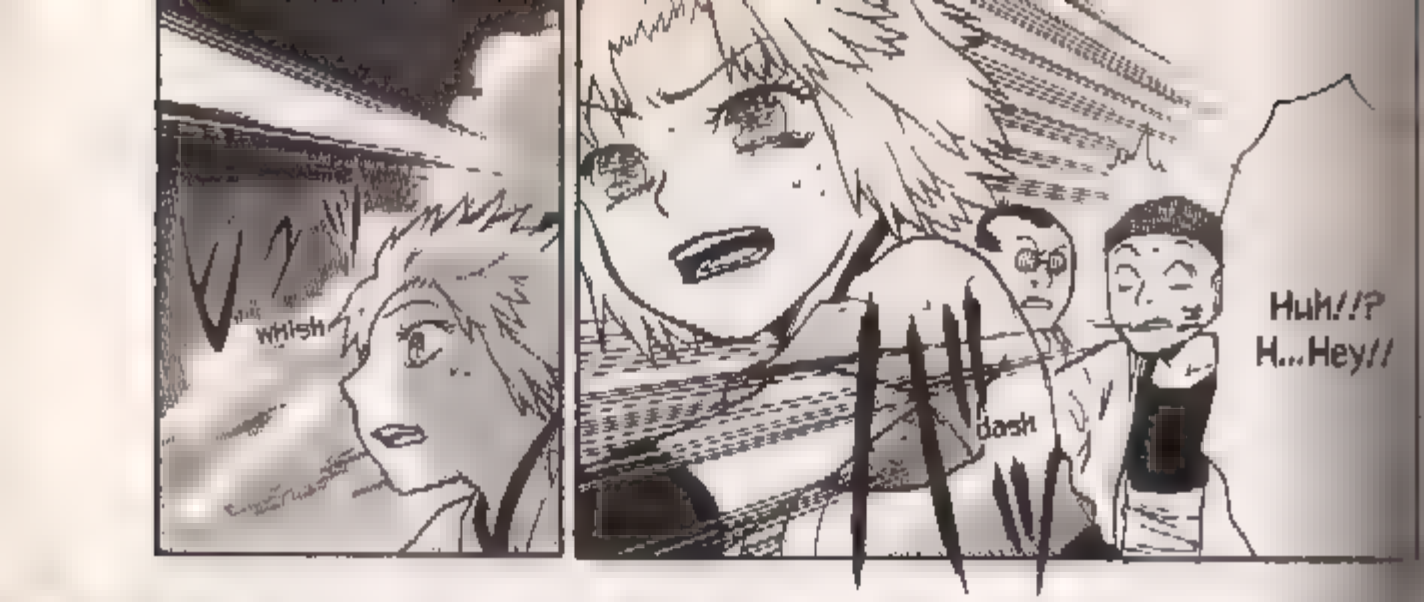

It's getting late...knowing Kazuma-kun, I expected him to saunter back all nonchalant, but...
Sundown is in another hour.
The sun's setting.

What's taking them so long? Could they still be trapped somewhere?



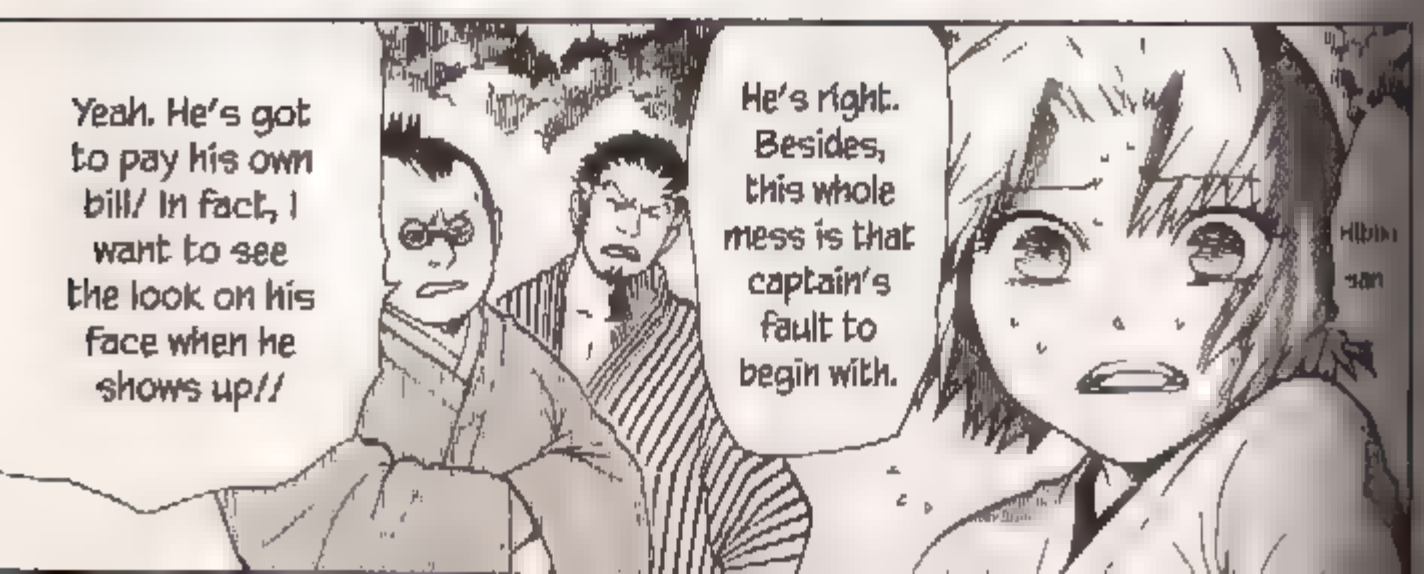

うわあ
waaaaah
D...Don't tell me they both got killed in the first earthquake
ping
Because we are lacking squad members, I have recruited the dog as well.
Due to Kazuma-san's demise, I have become the new captain.
Y... You're right...
I bet Kazuma-kun will show up any minute now! OK?
?quiver
quiver
D... Don't worry!
quiver

40 minutes, hun...
I anticipate reinforcements to take about 40 minutes to arrive from base, since they will have to use a different gate.
Uh... um!
...40 minutes ?
I cannot just stay put, knowing that those two are in danger!!
I... am a member of Squad Zero!
Please excuse me!!


whish
dash
Huh!!?
H...Hey!!

I will not authorize it! One rookie cannot accomplish anything!!

tap
!!!

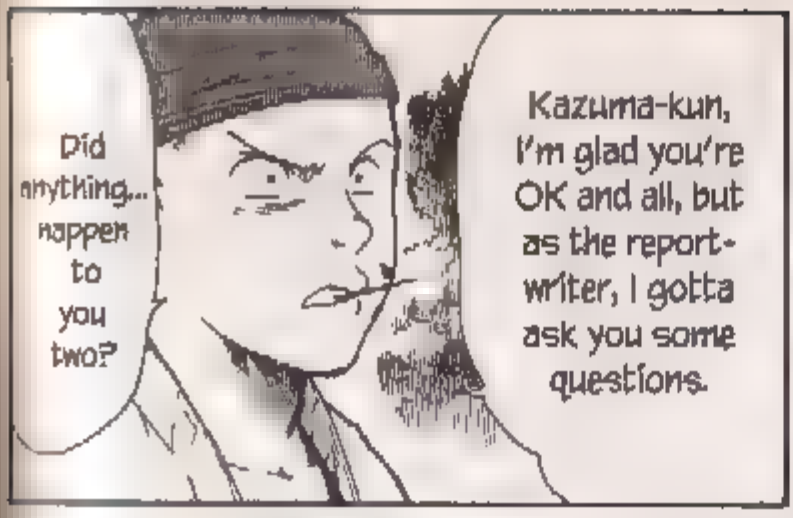

Yeah. He's got to pay his own bill! In fact, I want to see the look on his face when he shows up!!
He's right. Besides, this whole mess is that captain's fault to begin with.

Kajiyama-san... But I...
Sorry, but I agree with them on this one.
!
Hey!!!
Issa-kun!! Sôsei-kun!!

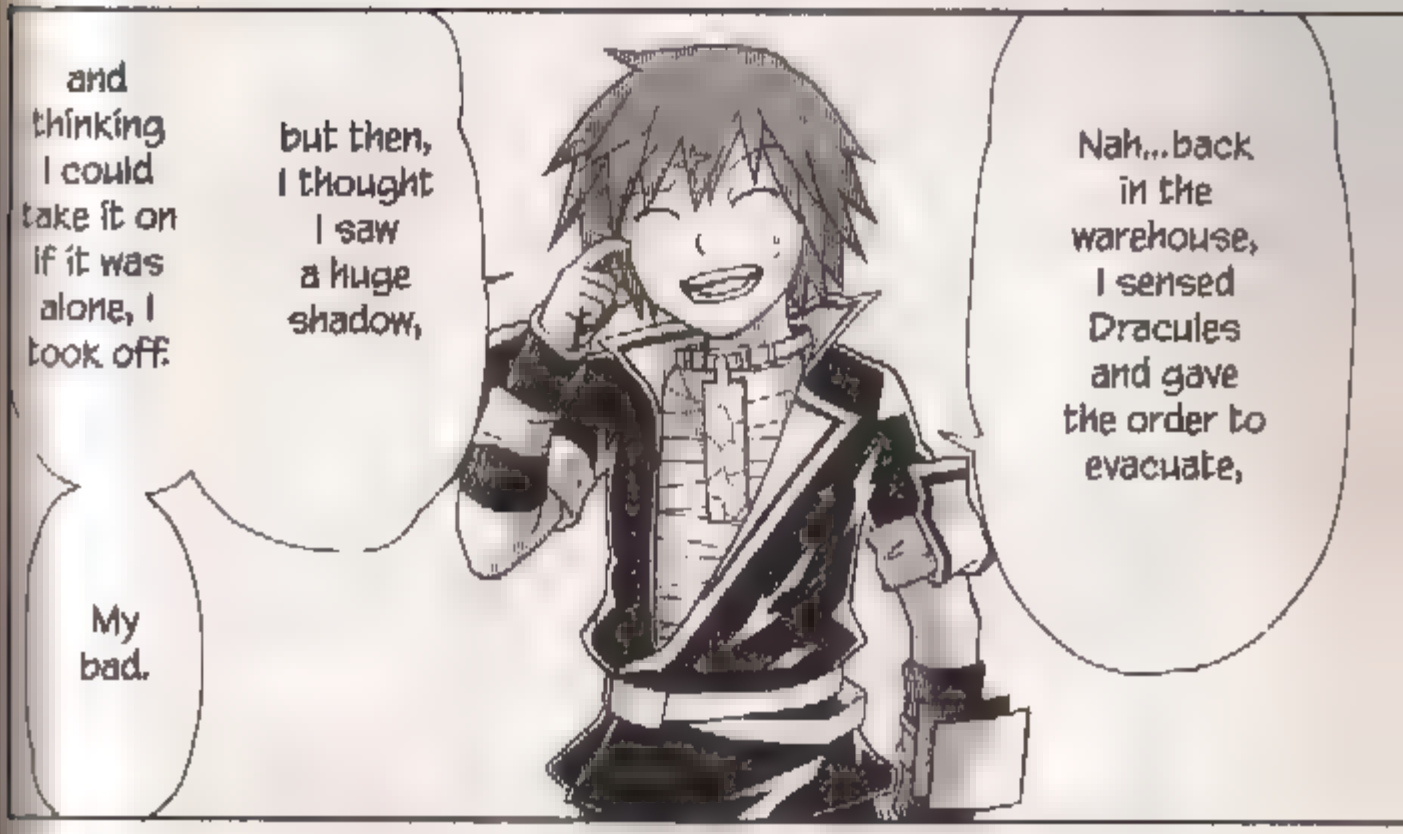
dash
That loser!
Kazuma kun!
Sôsei-san !!!
Issa-kun !!!
Ha ha... Yo, Leila, sorry to keep you waiting!!
Leila...

Where in the world have you been—!!?
thwack
No "What the"!! Do you know how worried we all were for you!?
Wh... Wh... What the!!!
tumble
tumble
Because you disappeared, Hibiki-san had to take over and lead us on the mission, and then Dracules showed up, and it was horrible!!!
Uh... oh, really?

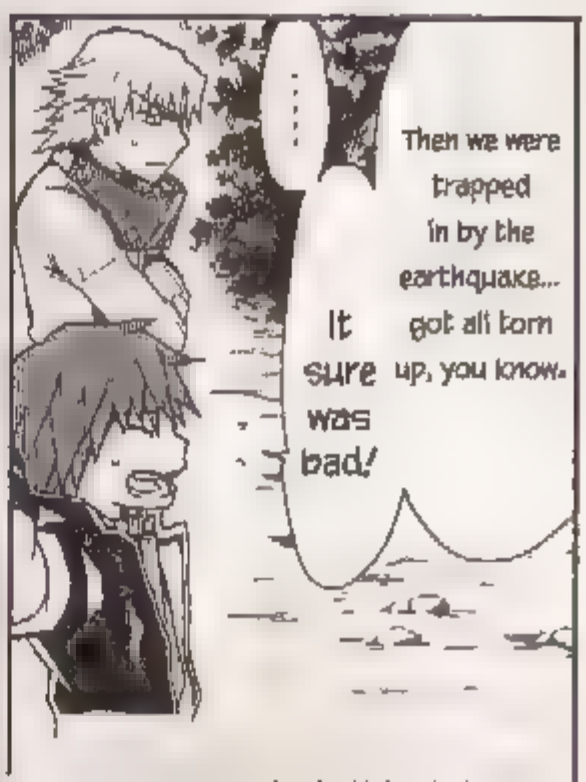
Besides which, it's your fault we got trapped in that earthquake to begin with!! If things went wrong, we could have all died!!
What, that's my fault, too!?
Stupid, stupid, stupid!
And look!! Sôsei-san's injured!!
sorry.
Uh...
Apologize to everyone!!


Did anything... happen to you two?
Kazuma-kun, I'm glad you're OK and all, but as the report-writer, I gotta ask you some questions.

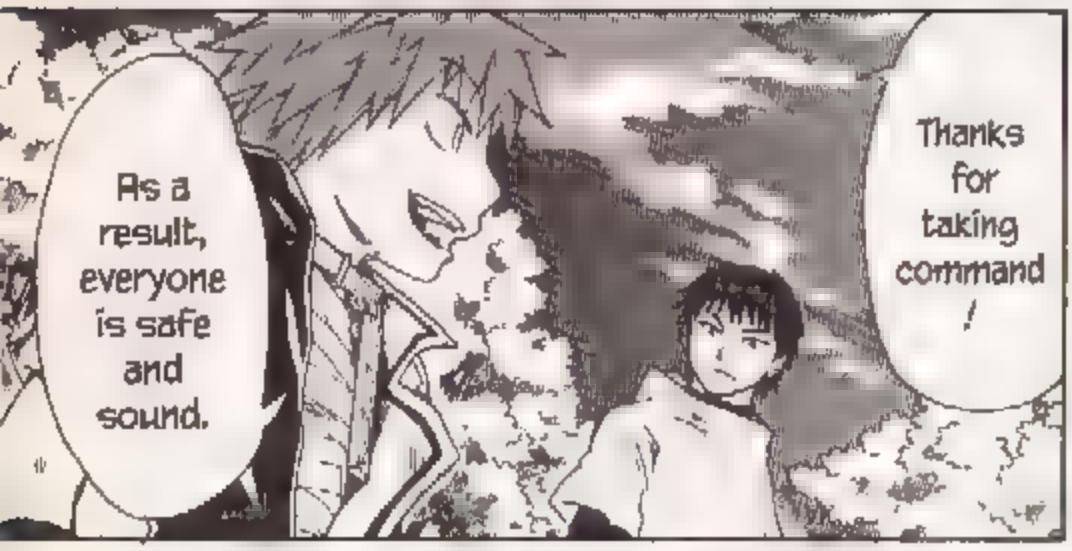
...Feh.
...


and thinking I could take it on if it was alone, I took off.
but then, I thought I saw a huge shadow,
Nah...back in the warehouse, I sensed Dracules and gave the order to evacuate,
My bad.

What a lackadaisical captain! Unprecedented!
Sounds about right.


.....
It sure was bad!
Then we were trapped in by the earthquake... got all torn up, you know.

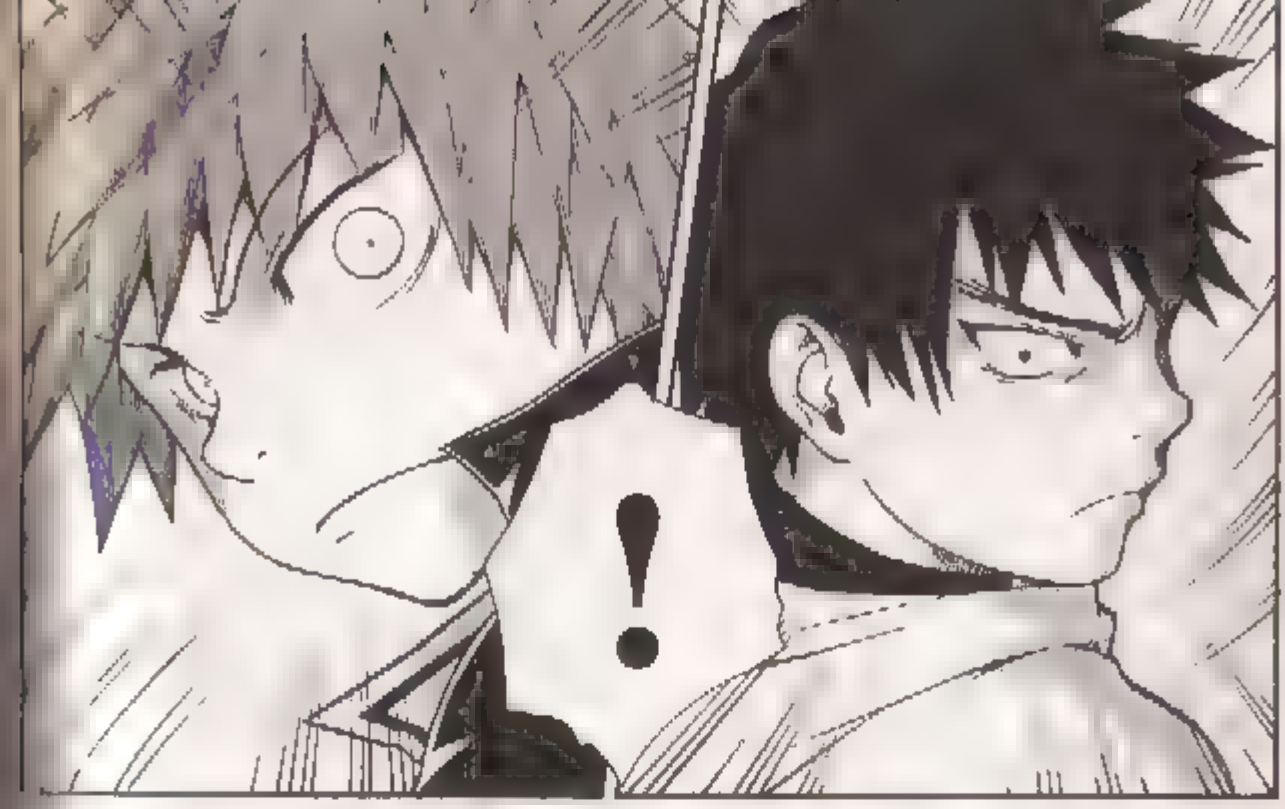
No, no, that's all right.
Sorry, Kazuma-kun.
Well, I'm going to report it as you told me, so you might want to prepare yourself for disciplinary action.


As a result, everyone is safe and sound.
Thanks for taking command!

I now return command to you.
We exterminated four Tebuto and about 200 other smaller Dracules. I believe we have accomplished our mission objective.

Yeah.
You have quite a few wounds. Are you sure they're all from the rockslide?
Glance
!?
Aww, come on, you still upset...?
And in a way that's unfavorable to him, too...!
He really hid the truth!!
I... Issa-kun!!
sniffle
sniffle

N...No, no... You're wrong!
This... uh...
Please forgive me.
Er...
Yukimura's just as stinky..
Sheesh- can't be fine!!
Eh!? That's not fair!
Y... You're so stinky it's stinging my eyes!!!
Hurry!!
What!?
Never mind! Just go!!



grab

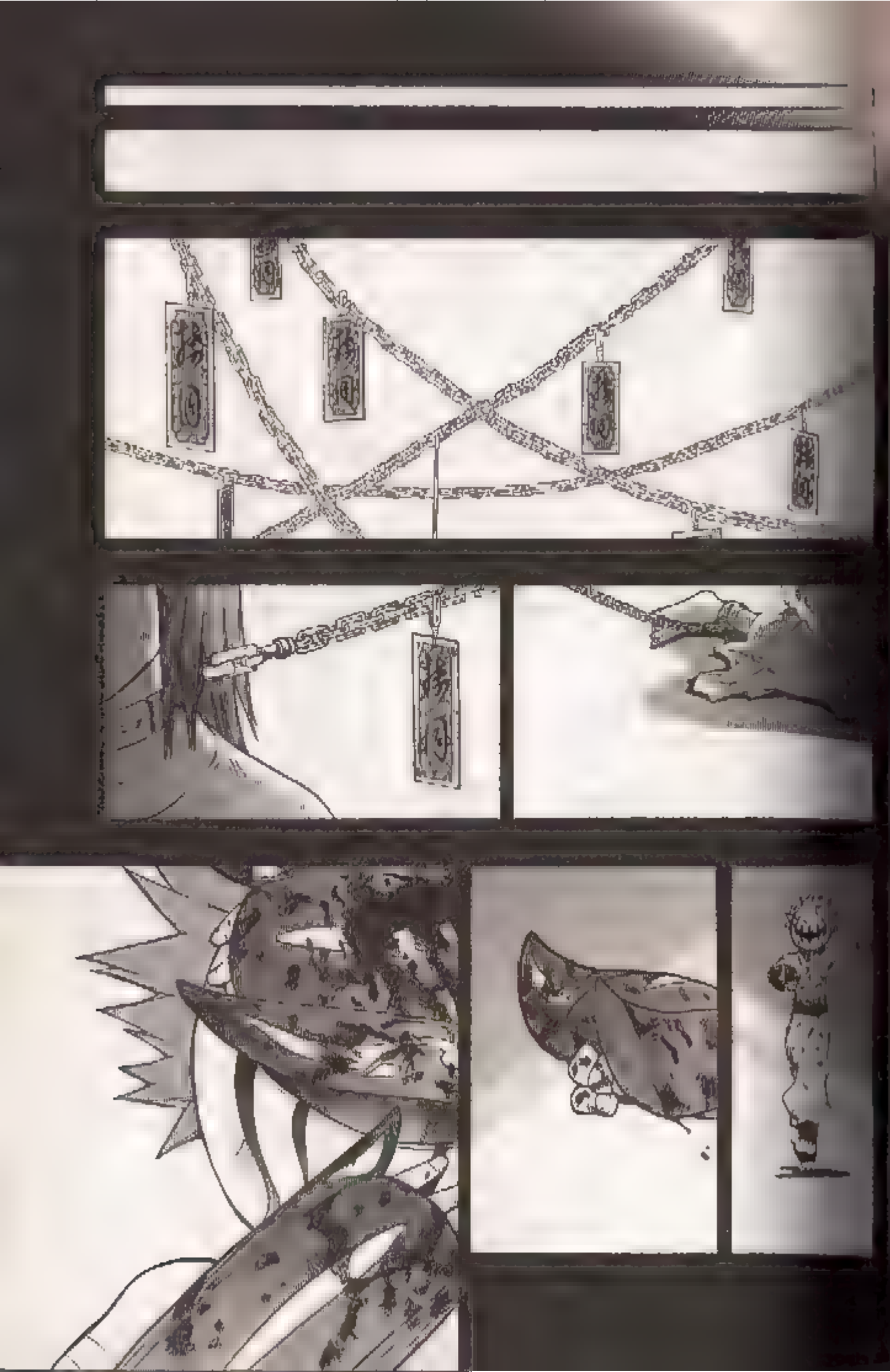
leap
Huh!?

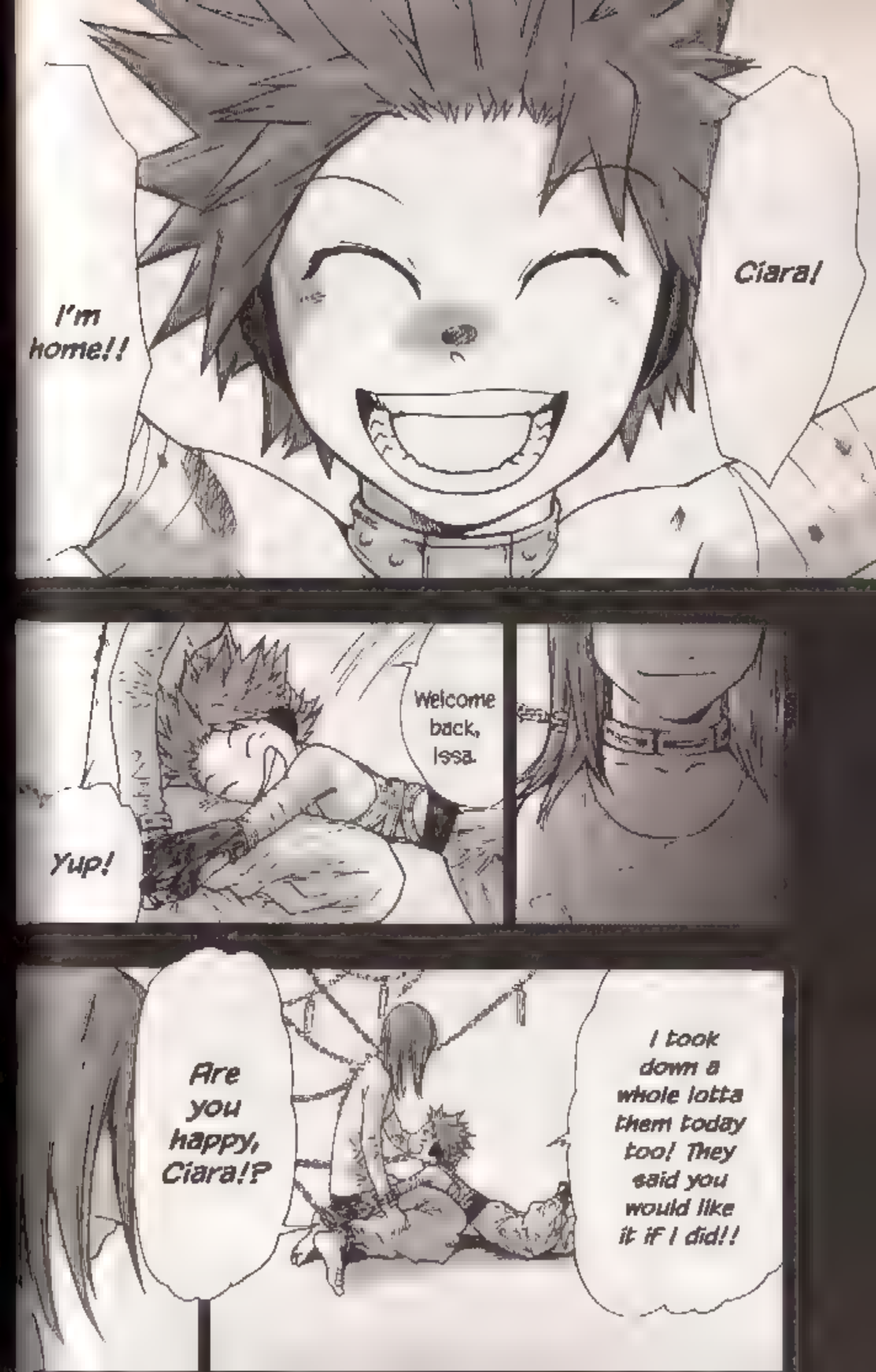
Hmm...
ｸﾞ ｸﾞ ｸﾞ.

Don't kill him!
He isn't a Dracule.
Be careful, Kazuma-san.
You shouldn't jump in like that.

I did stop myself
Just short.
tap
Don't tell me the reports of Dracule sightings were about that bear?
Then those Tebuto were pure coincidence?
Let's go home.
Don't you think you're more suited for Troop Misora?
tap
Squad Six. Covert Ops, eh? You're pretty good!
You know me?

Those "beast wounds."
You probably ought to have those looked over at HQ, too.
Mission accomplished!!
Now then, let's get back to Mikuni before dark!

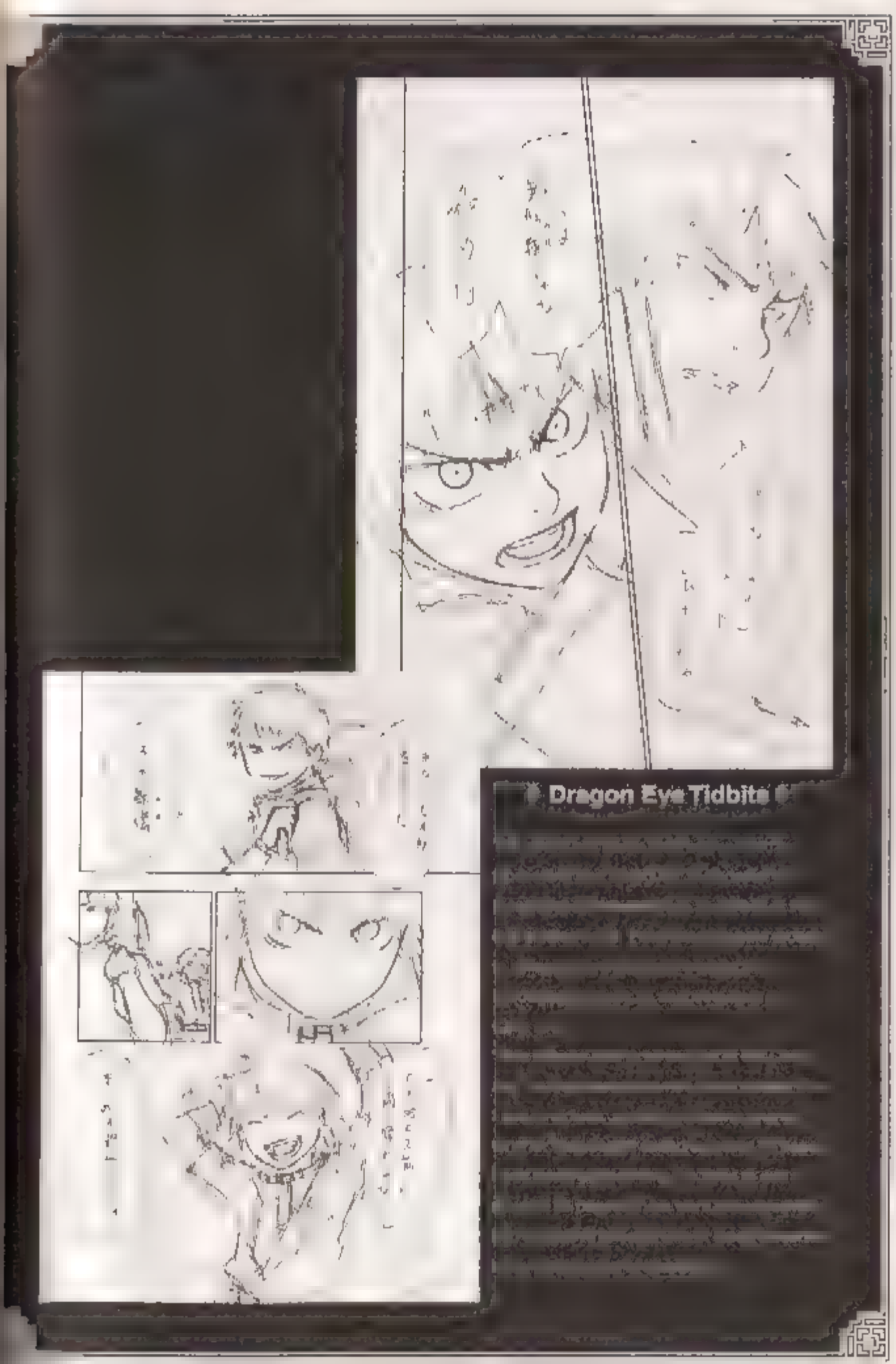



I'm home!!
Ciara!
Welcome back, Issa.
Yup!
Are you happy, Ciara!?
I took down a whole lotta them today too! They said you would like it if I did!!

I don't care, as long as I'm with you, Ciara!!
Huh?... I dunno.
Issa... do you like it here?
If you should ever recall this day someday...
Issa... listen closely.
... just remember this.

You didn't do anything wrong.
None of this was your fault.
Yup!
Okay?
We'll be together forever, right, Ciara!!?
Yay!! I don't care, as long as I'm with you, Ciara!!
Yeah. We've been here too long.
Shall we leave here soon, Issa?
Really? We're going on a trip again!?
Yeah.

Together forever


Dragon Eye Tidbits

KAIAI
FUJIYAMA
4
DRAGON
EYE

= Dragon Eye =

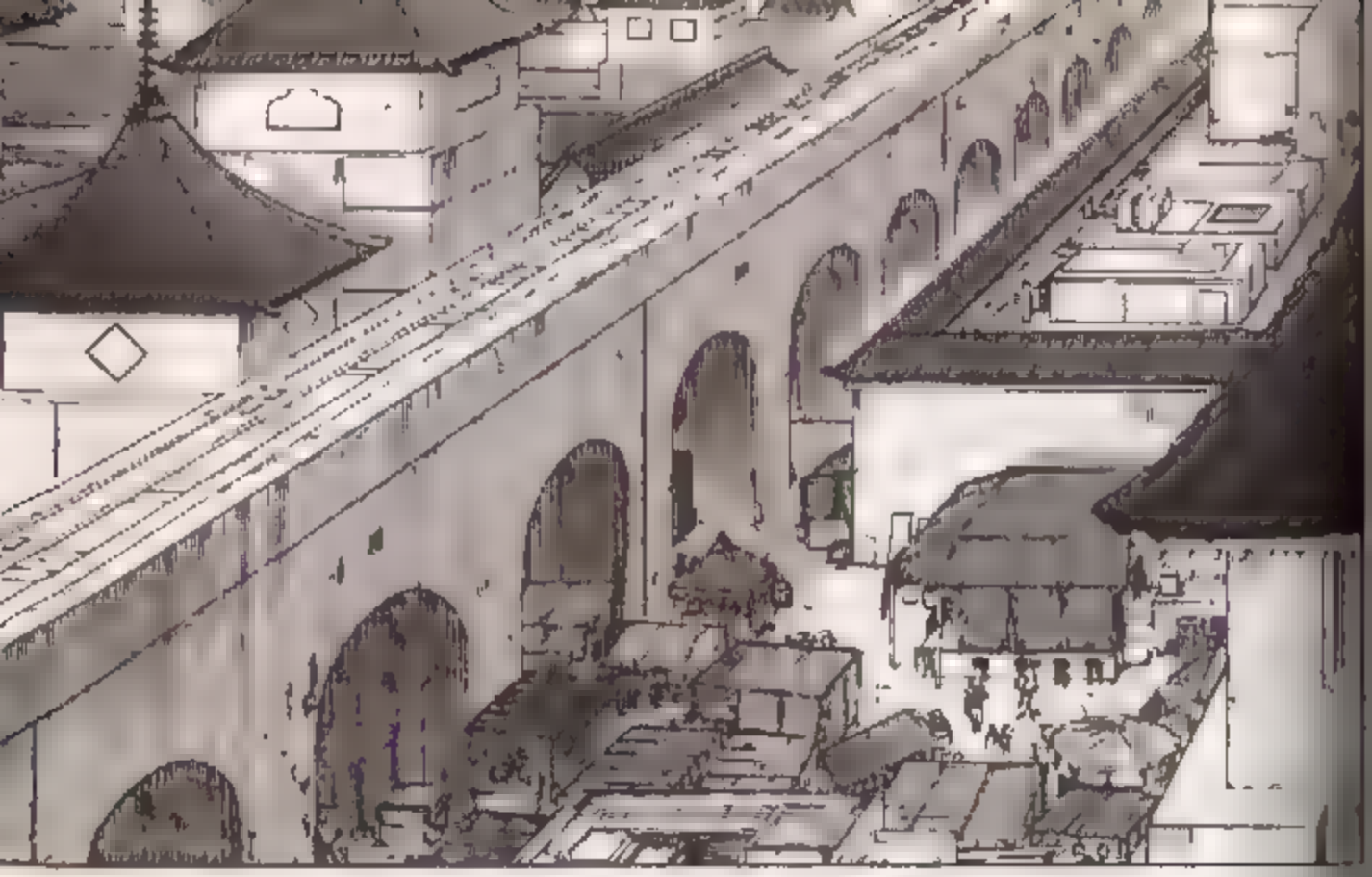
Kairi Fujiyama

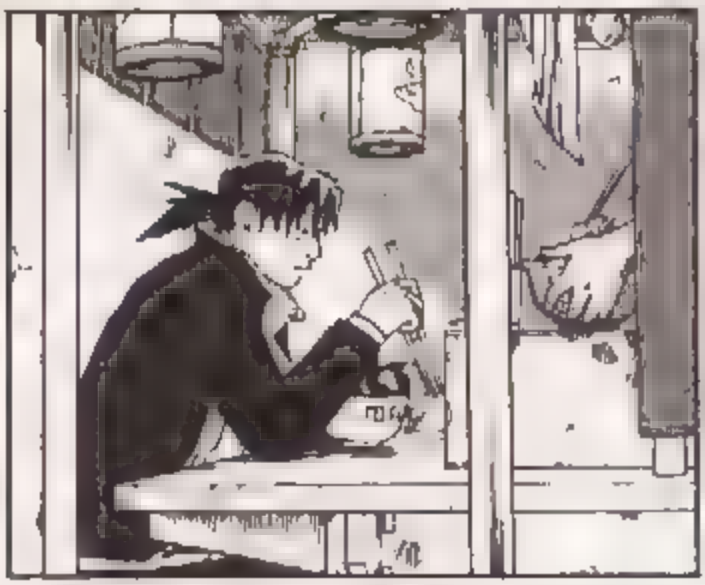
Mission ⓘ Ten
If You Should Ever Recall This Day Someday
5

Mission ⓘ Eleven
Leila's Errand
71

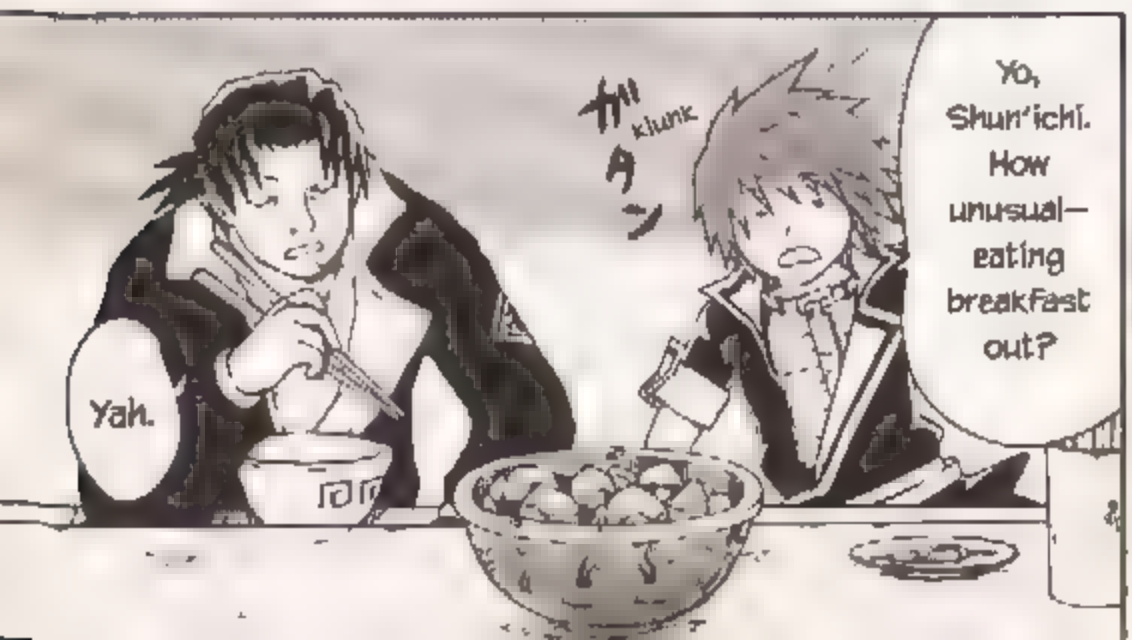
Mission ⓘ Twelve
The Evil Plot in Motion
[illegible]

Extra
194

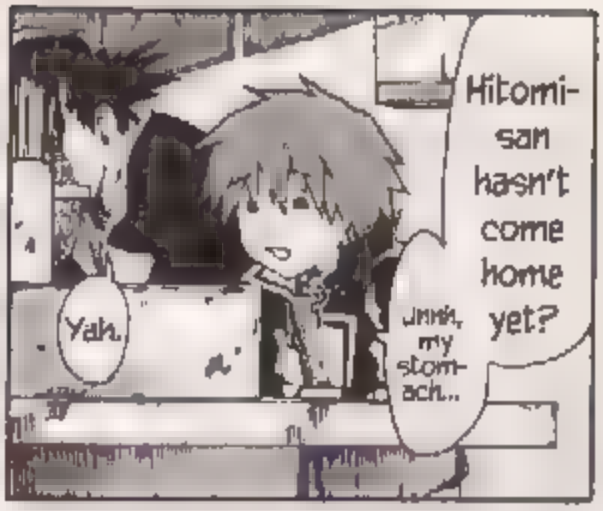


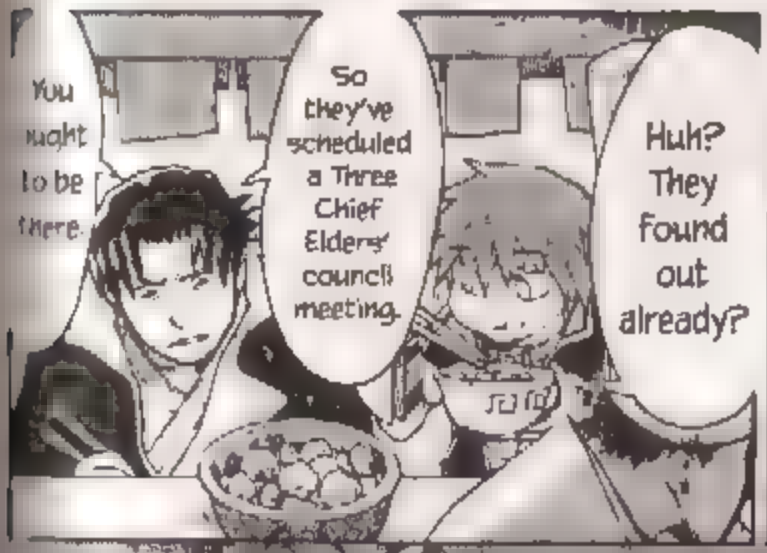


mutter
chatter
Marusaka
chatter

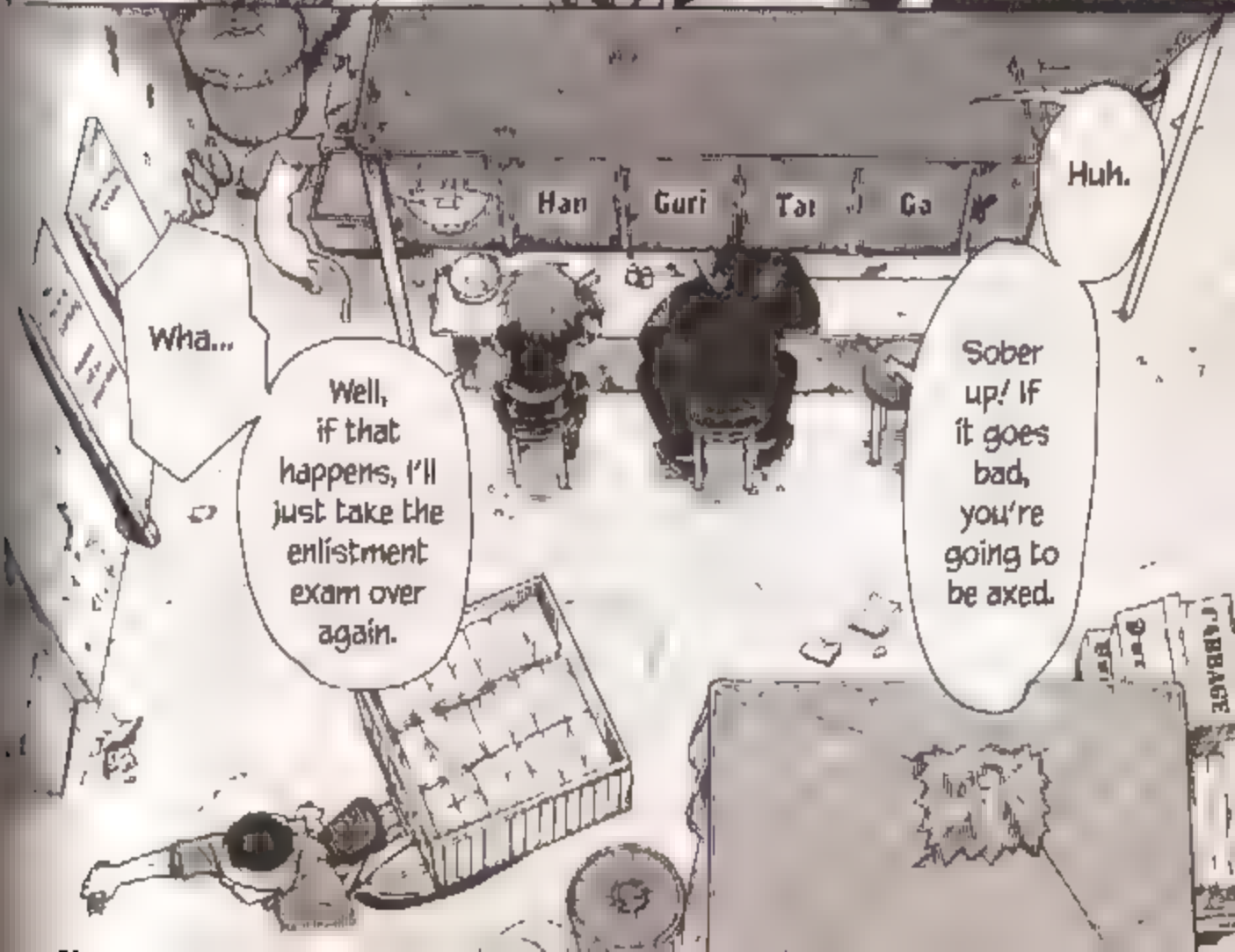

klunk
タン
Yah.
Yo, Shun'ichi. How unusual— eating breakfast out?

Oh, three of what he's having.
So what's up? Calling me out so early.


Hitomi-san hasn't come home yet?
Ummh, my stom-ach...
Yah.


You ought to be there.
So they've scheduled a Three Chief Elders' council meeting.
Huh? They found out already?

Seems you left out some facts in your report on yesterday's mission.

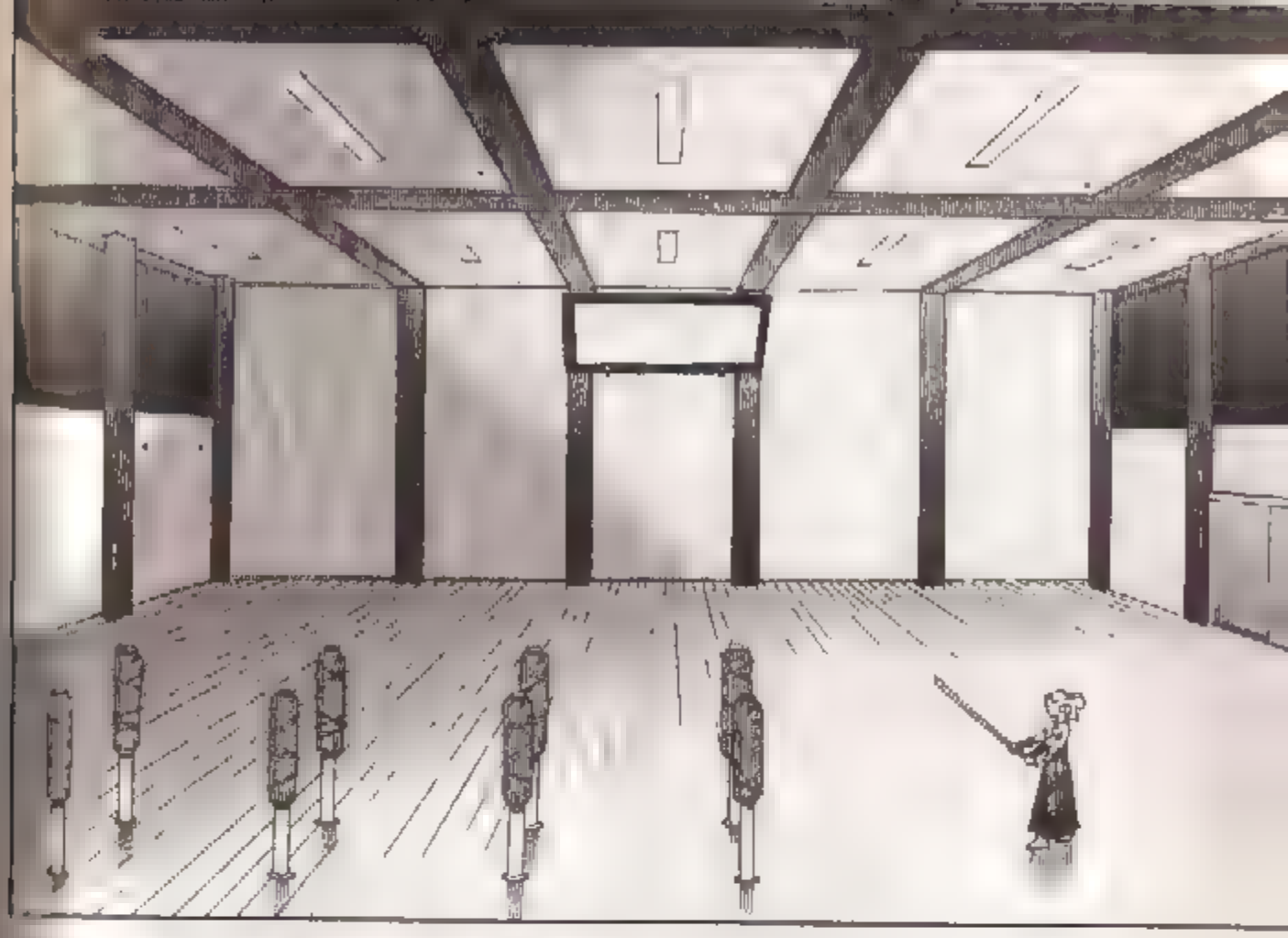

Han
Guri
Tai
Ga
Huh.
Wha...
Well, if that happens, I'll just take the enlistment exam over again.
Sober up! If it goes bad, you're going to be axed.

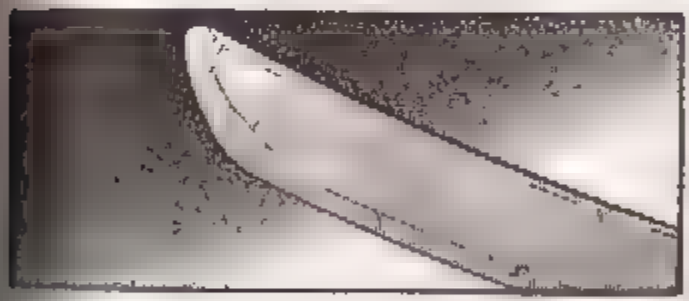
So why are you covering up the truth?
Nah, I'll be all right.
Just rewrite the report! I'll intercede for you somehow
I just have this feeling that it wouldn't be good to get them all riled up.
Oh, one more.
Well, the contents of all reports get passed on to Central, right?
That's my gut feeling.
Yeah, but I'd rather not incite them quite yet.
You mean... about that Daraku bunch? I'm sure they'll find out eventually.

We're not prepared for an all-out war right now.
You ought to worry a little more.
How can you be so laid back about it?
phew
What-ever will be, will be.
Well, if you insist, I won't say anything...
...but you better prepare yourself for the council.
I'll try my best, too, but... interrogation is a given.
Huh?
That'll be 5000 roku for the two of you
spring
Thanks. Say hi to Hitomi-san when you find her...
Mister.
Will he never learn to respect authority?

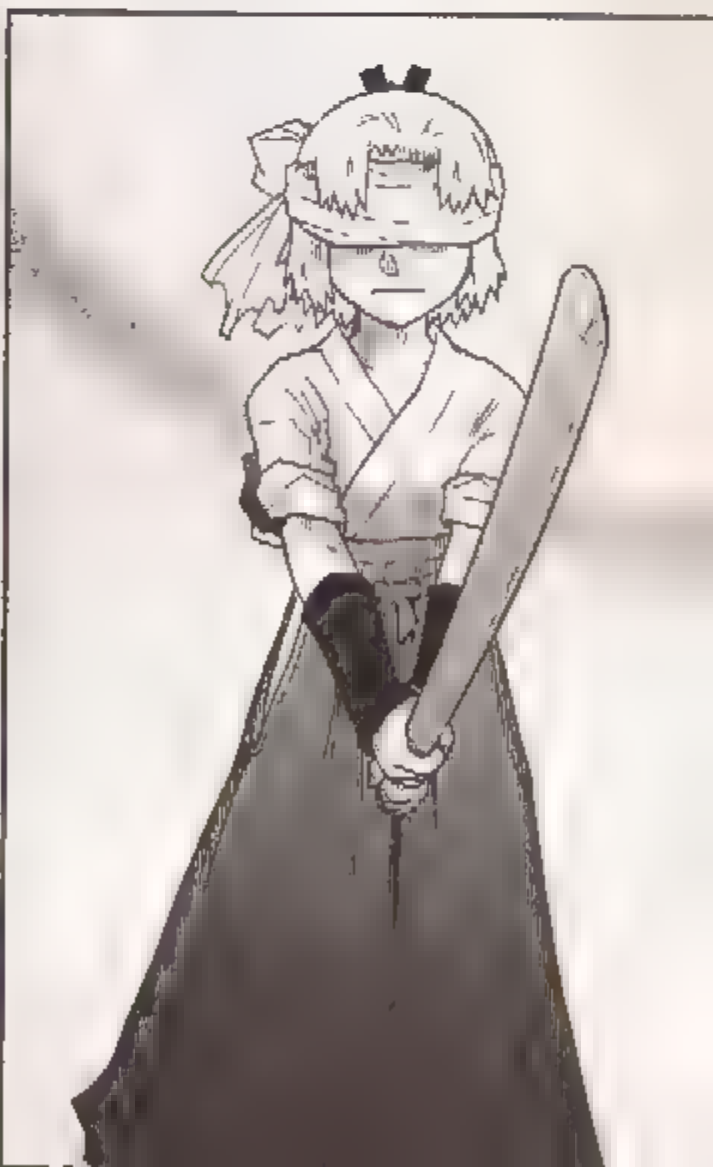
Mission 10 Eleven

Leila's Errand

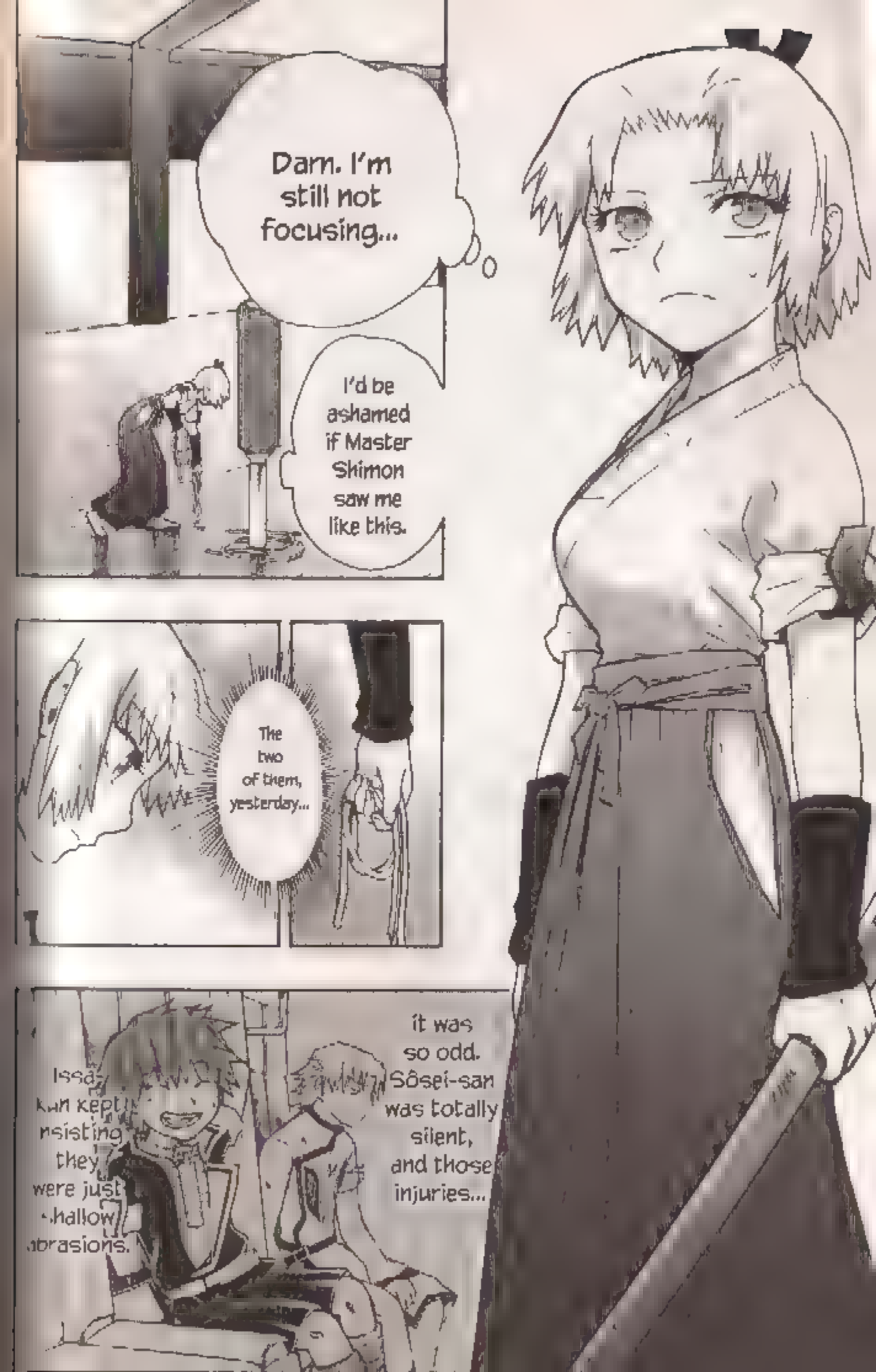




hop



whap
whap
whap
fwhup
swish
swish
swish
swish


Darn. I'm still not focusing...
I'd be ashamed if Master Shimon saw me like this.
The two of them, yesterday...
Issa-kun kept insisting they were just shallow abrasions.
it was so odd. Sôsei-san was totally silent, and those injuries...

Hibiki-san's amazing. He really might become squad captain.
I wonder what really happened
Why? I'm fine alone.
But I... prefer that someone like Issa-kun remains my captain
Mikami-san—!
Not that I have any say.

Oh, Hyûga-san, good morning.
You're so good, up and at it so early.
Aah, there you are! Good morning!
You're going to be deployed on a solo mission today.
Oh no, I have a message for you, Mikami-san, not the Captain.
Um...I haven't touched base with the Captain yet this morning.
A solo mission?

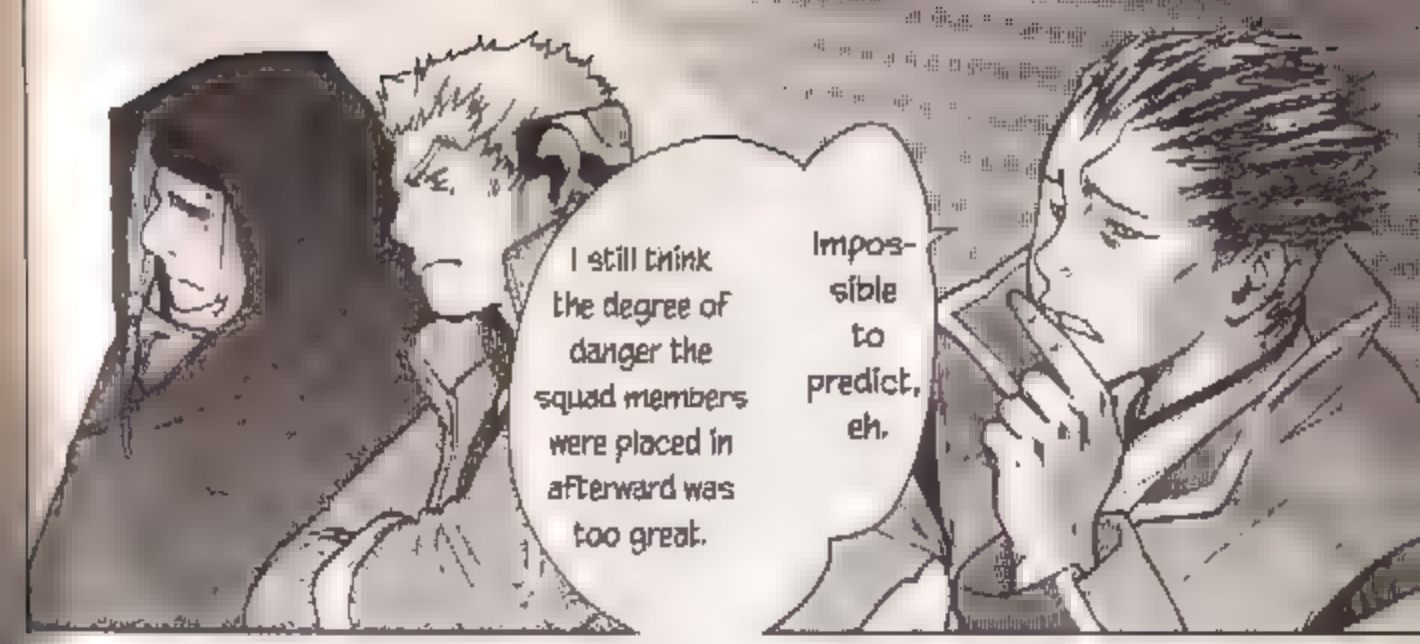
dooo

Intelligence Corps,
Processing Division Head
Koiai Shû
Hmm... Daraku, eh...?
It's the first the Intelligence Corps have heard of them.
Troop Chihiro
Commander
Squad Three Captain
Myôjin Tadanaka
If these fellows have indeed targeted Mikuni,
we must prepare ourselves, but...
Troop Hidaka
Commander
Squad Eight Captain
Ino'o Jyûbê
We don't even know who or how many of them there are.
Nor when and how they plan to assault Mikuni.

Squad One Captain Sakuraba? Squad Zero Captain Kazuma?
So that's the situation. Do either of you have anything to add...?
gurgle-slosh
Troop Misora Commander
Squad One Captain
Sakuraba Shun'ichi
Squad Zero Captain
Kazuma Issa
Ulp?

Darn it...I swear I'm going to shut that stall down.
That's why I hate going somewhere new.
I bet it was the squid. That squid tasted kinda off.
You look pale. Is there a problem?
No, no problem at all.
If we can't anticipate the enemy's actions, the Enforcement Corps' hands are tied as well.
I agree that we have too little information at this time to formulate any adequate counter-measures.
Er... I first heard about this this morning as well.
I see... On a slightly different note...

Yes.
Er—allow me to explain...
Is this true?
...according to reports, the Squad Zero captain appears to have mishandled things on-site, leading to his squad becoming separated.
That day, there were several large-scale earthquakes in the vicinity of the deployment.
The squad's division was due to a rockslide set off by one such quake.
In addition, since earthquakes have never been recorded in that area, it was impossible to have predicted them.
Thus, I do *not* believe Captain Kazuma acted in an inappropriate manner or made improper decisions.

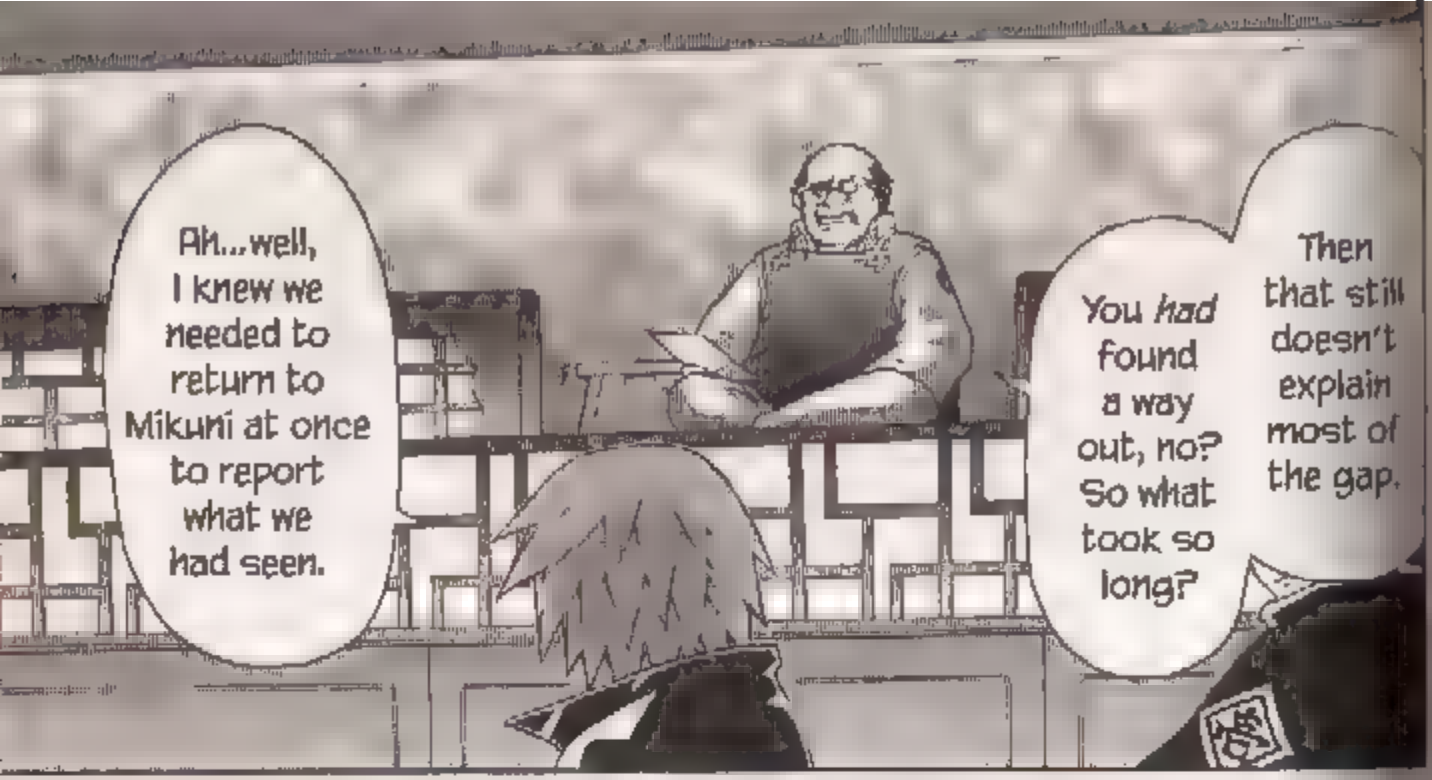

I still think the degree of danger the squad members were placed in afterward was too great.
Impossible to predict, eh.

Then, there is a gap of four hours until you are reunited above ground. But what took place during that time?
According to this report, after the squad became separated, you and Yukimura witnessed a gang known as Daraku.
Now that we're on the subject of Kazuma-kun...

scritch
scritch
Aah—
We'd like you to go over everything from the start once more, Kazuma-kun.
Isn't there something you still haven't told us?

Excuse me. Please forgive my tardiness.
Troop Kazan Commander Aoi here
I apologize for not being punctual.
Aoi-kun, don't you have a mission going on? You need not go out of your way...
Oh no, please just pardon my disguised appearance.
Yo, Aoi.
So, your response, Kazuma-kun?

Er, after our squad became separated, Yukimura and I explored the caverns and found a way out...
but then I sensed the presence of Dracules, and upon investigation...
You discovered a collective of Dracules led by this Daraku.
Yes. Uh... his speech lasted about half an hour, and riled up the Dracules.
You said he specifically named Mikuni? They're definitely hostile, then.
So, is there anything else to report?
No, that's it.


Ah...well, I knew we needed to return to Mikuni at once to report what we had seen.
You had found a way out, no? So what took so long?
Then that still doesn't explain most of the gap.

Yukimura got stuck in a hole.

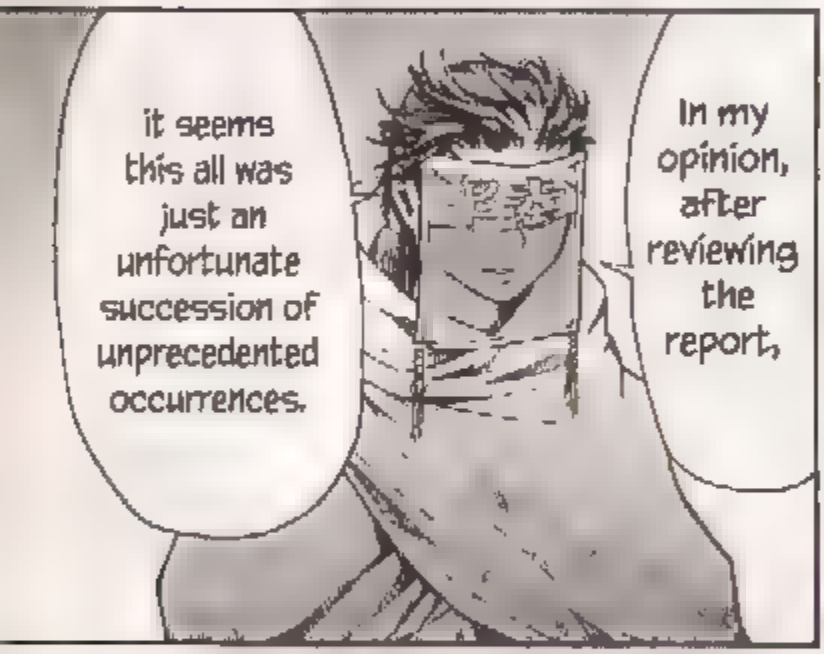
So the two of us set off for the exit
but, in our haste,

Yes. There was a storm drain-sized hole in the ground...
A hole... you mean...

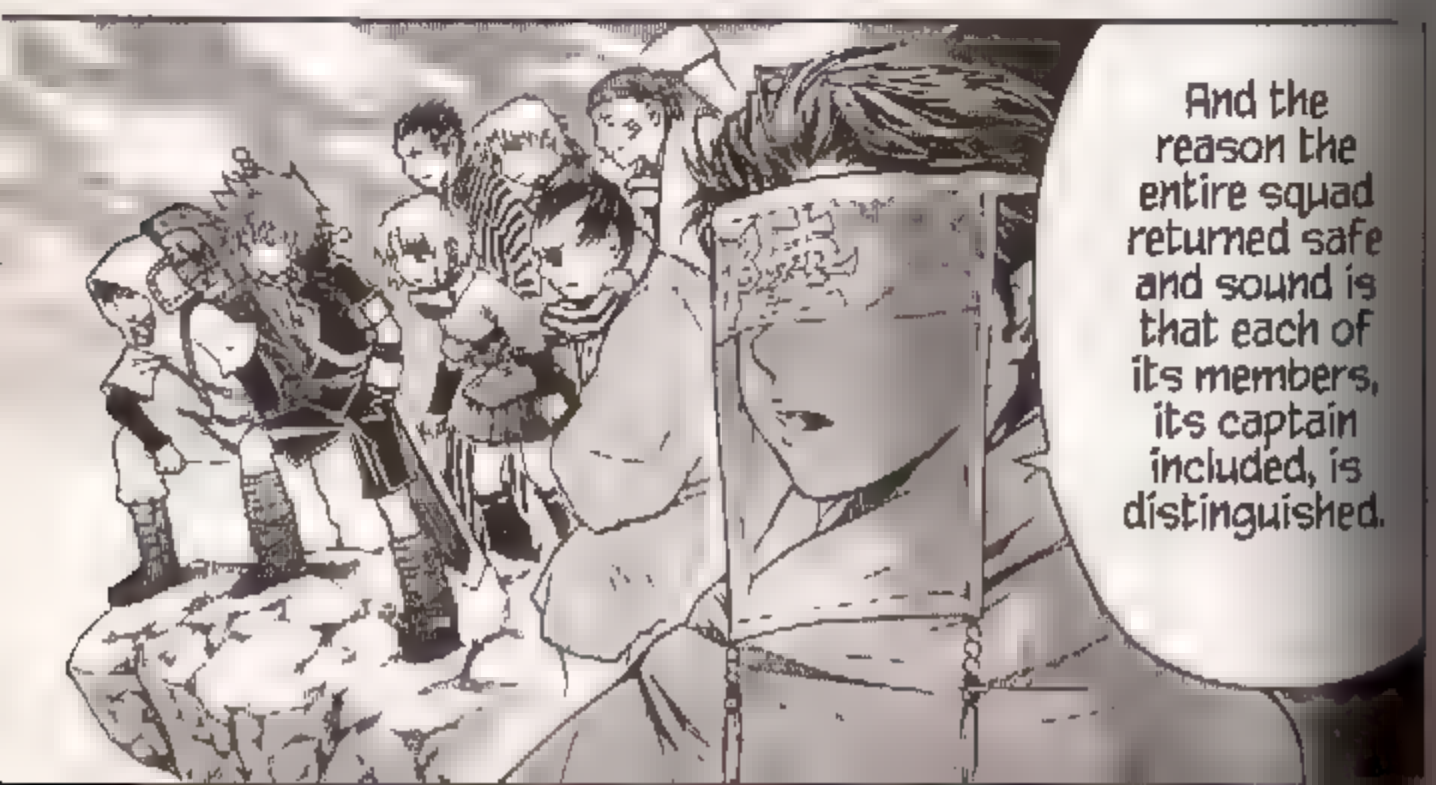
A hole?

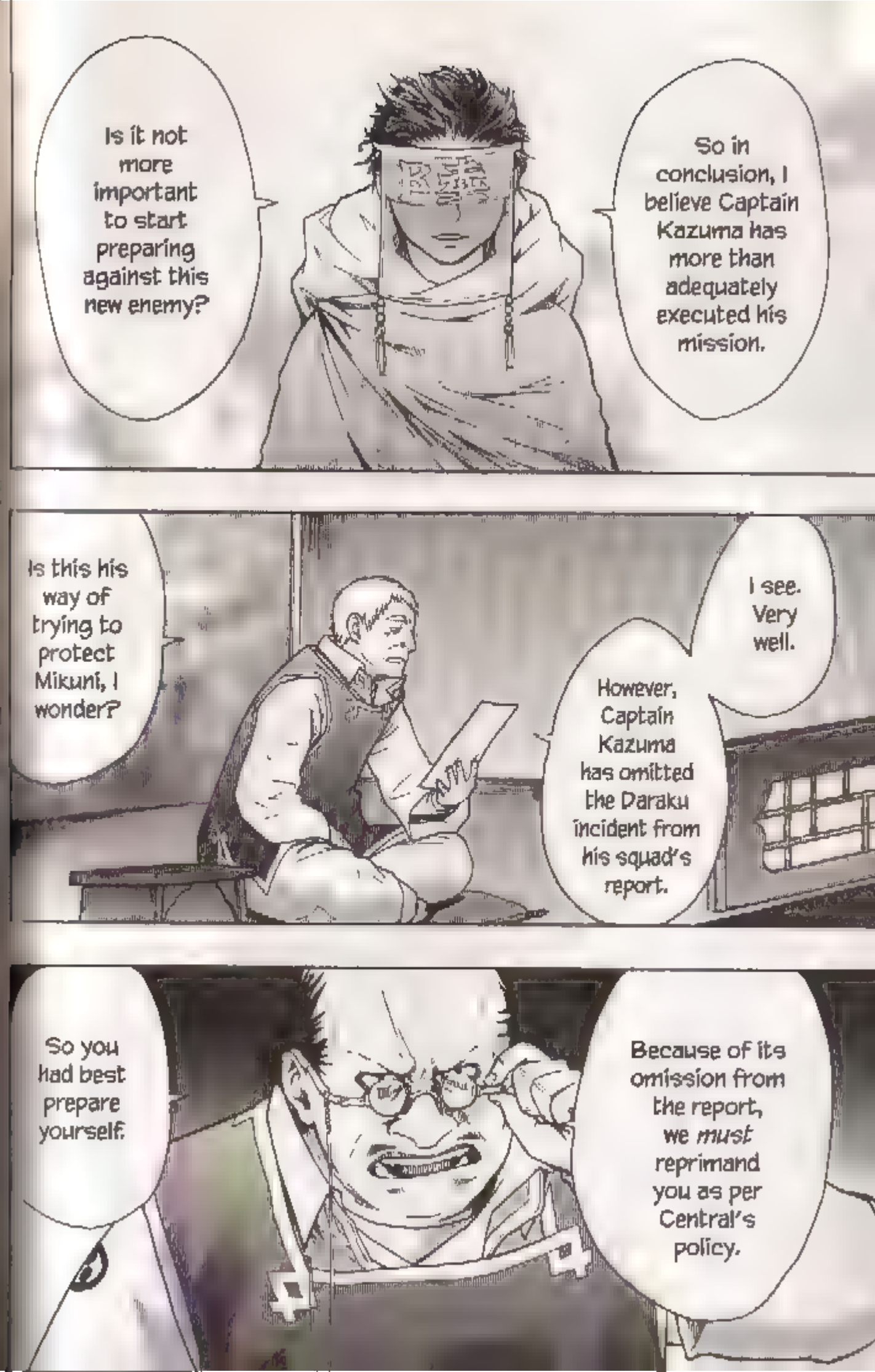
whisper
whisper
whisper
...and he just fell right in.
Kazuma-kun, you had better be telling the truth.
glare
Yukimura may be light on experience, but I heard he is quite a distinguished warrior.
He took top marks on his enlistment examination two years ago.
Such an obvious error seems beyond him...
If you think I'm lying, just look into my eyes and...
glint
decide for your self.

So in his stead, please allow me...
to explain...
gurgle gurgle
?
Kazuma kun?
Aah, it appears Captain Kazuma is a bit under the weather today...
dargh


it seems this all was just an unfortunate succession of unprecedented occurrences.
In my opinion, after reviewing the report,

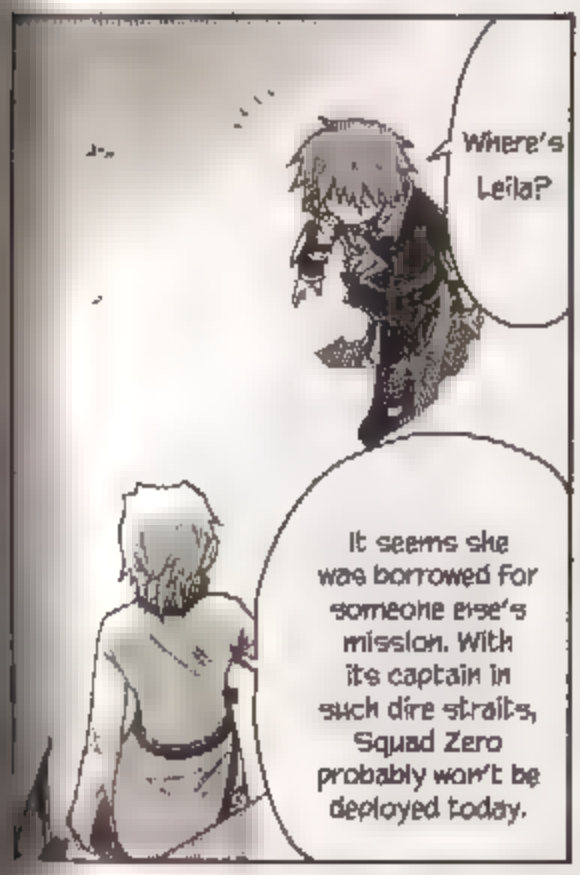
Go ahead.
May I speak, Elder Vice Director?

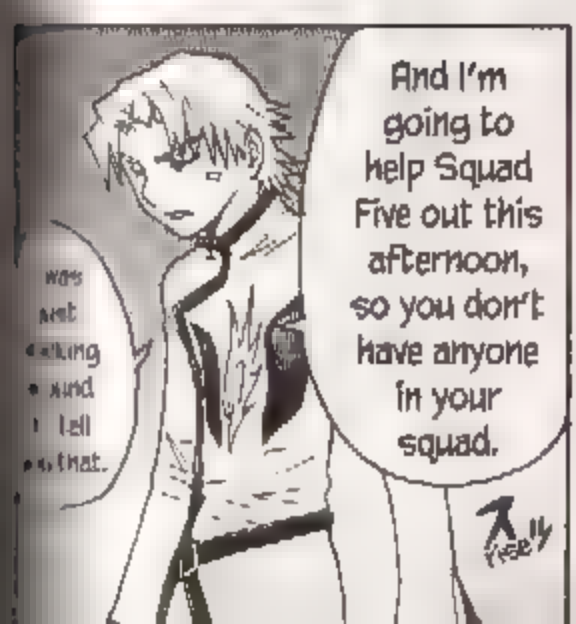

And the reason the entire squad returned safe and sound is that each of its members, its captain included, is distinguished.


Is it not more important to start preparing against this new enemy?
So in conclusion, I believe Captain Kazuma has more than adequately executed his mission.
Is this his way of trying to protect Mikuni, I wonder?
However, Captain Kazuma has omitted the Daraku incident from his squad's report.
I see. Very well.
So you had best prepare yourself.
Because of its omission from the report, we *must* reprimand you as per Central's policy.

wooosh...
Men's Washroom
to be frank, I've had enough.
Thanks to Aoi, we've managed to avoid disaster, but...
Either way, their decision will be handed down this evening. Just lay low until then, eh!
Quit it!
Well, whatever happens, happens.
You better prepare yourself for the worst

clatter...
If I get demoted, I gotta apologize to Leila...
Morning.
thump


Where's Leila?
It seems she was borrowed for someone else's mission. With its captain in such dire straits, Squad Zero probably won't be deployed today.


was just talking about that.
And I'm going to help Squad Five out this afternoon, so you don't have anyone in your squad.
Really

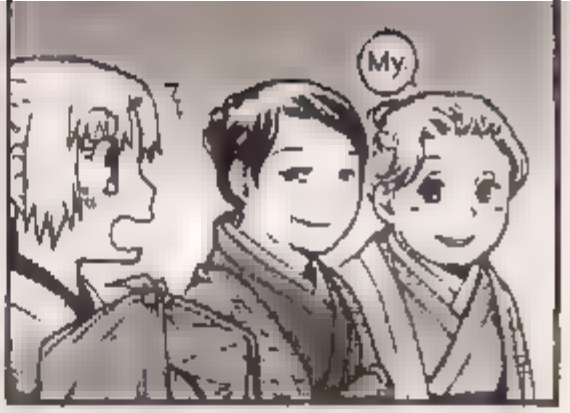
They sure kept you a long time. Situation must be pretty grim.

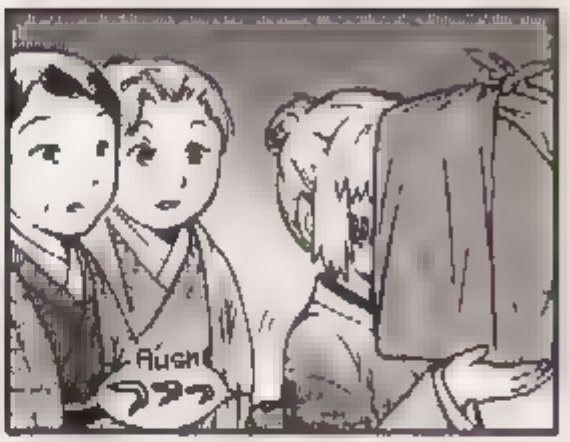
What did you say!?
No one believed me, anyway! You're so trust-worthy!
I ended up using you. Hope you don't mind.
I see. Oh, by the way, I couldn't think of a good enough excuse earlier, so...
Kazuma.
Oh, all right. I'll just be here all by my lonesome.
That's all.
Huh? You're not going to stay?
Huh? Oh, okay.
No... never mind.
You knew you would be severely reprimanded, and yet you still submitted a false report...
You. Why did you

What's up with him?
How long has he been waiting?
clop
clop
Dam it!
.....
Two hours! Wow, he's really diligent...
...since nine.
You're not supposed to talk, remember?

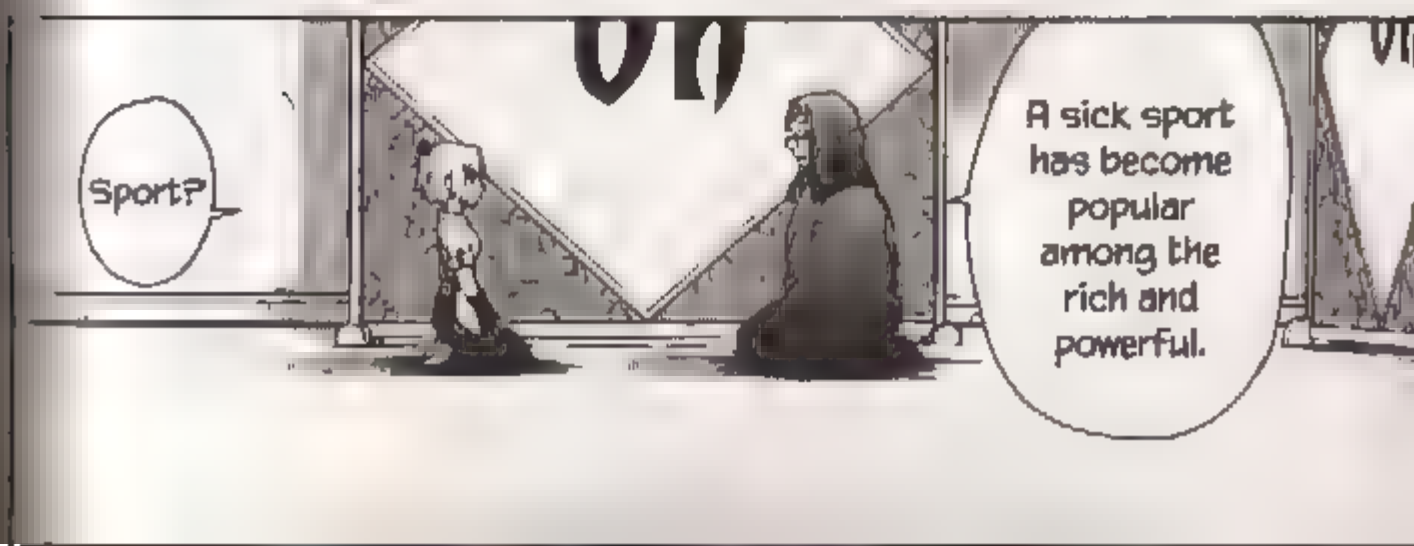
カラン
コロン
It's nerve-racking not being used to these geta.
カラ
clop
コロ

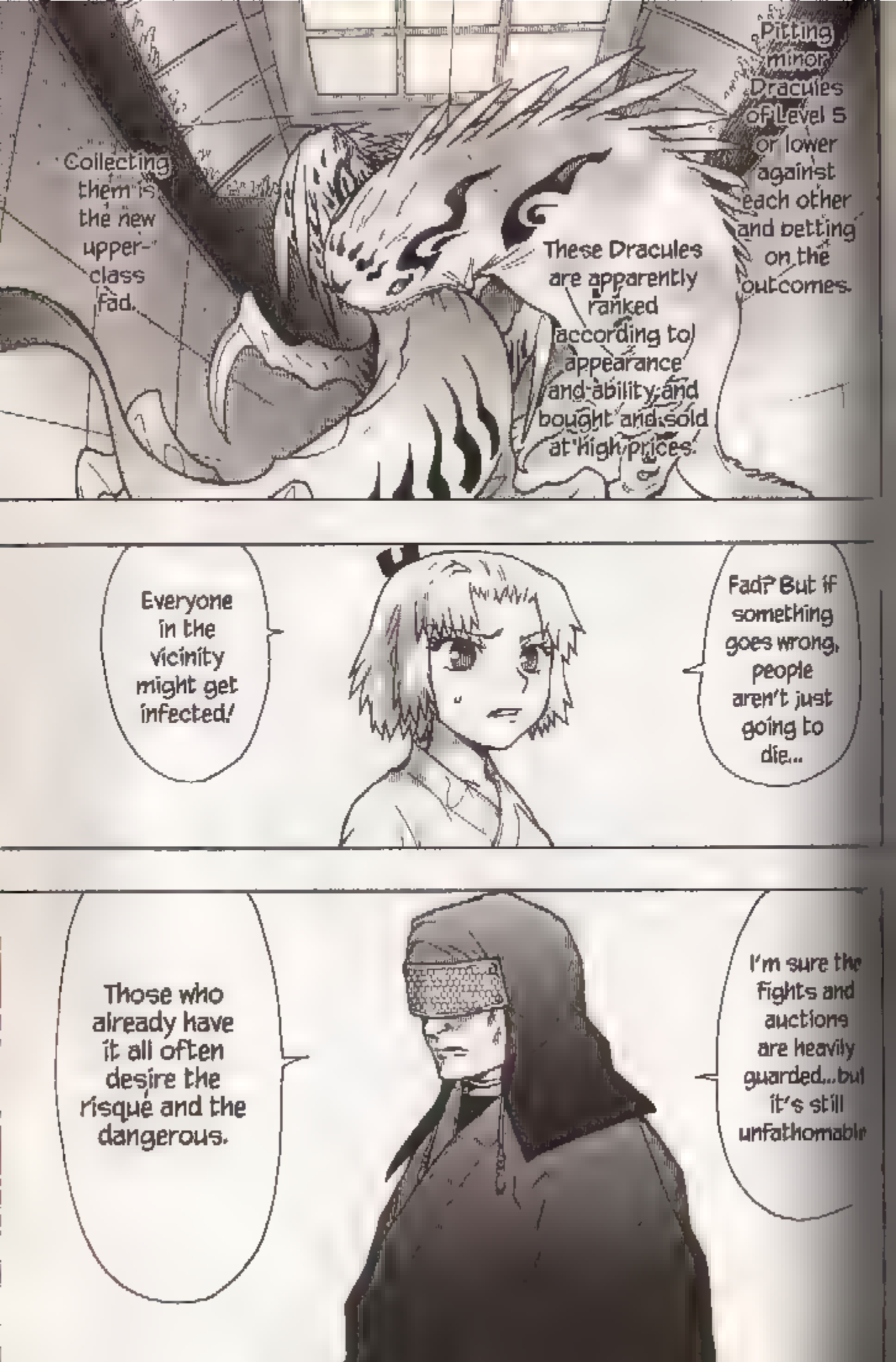
I'm used to training uniforms. This is so embarrassing.
I... I better not trip and fall.

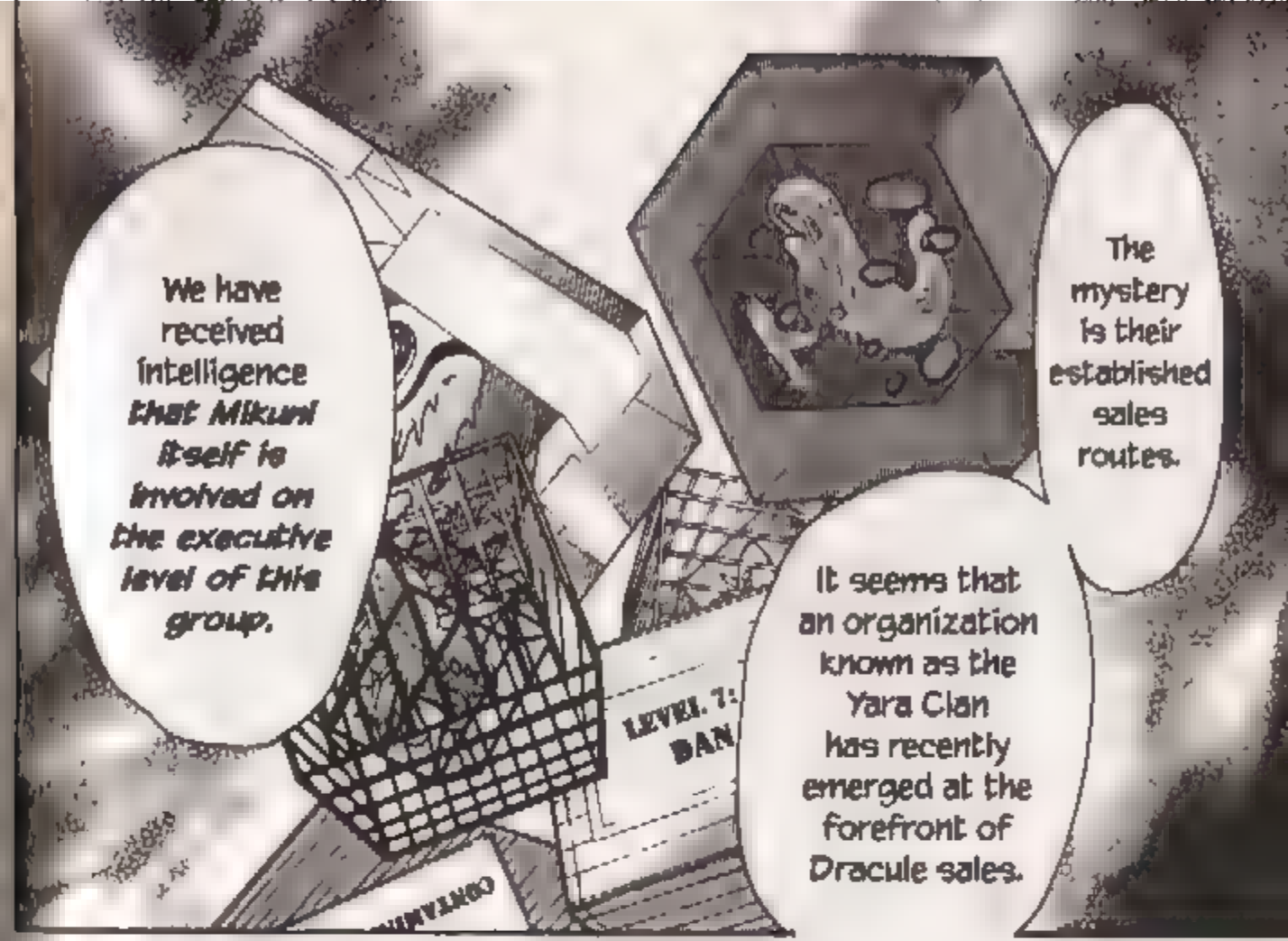

My.

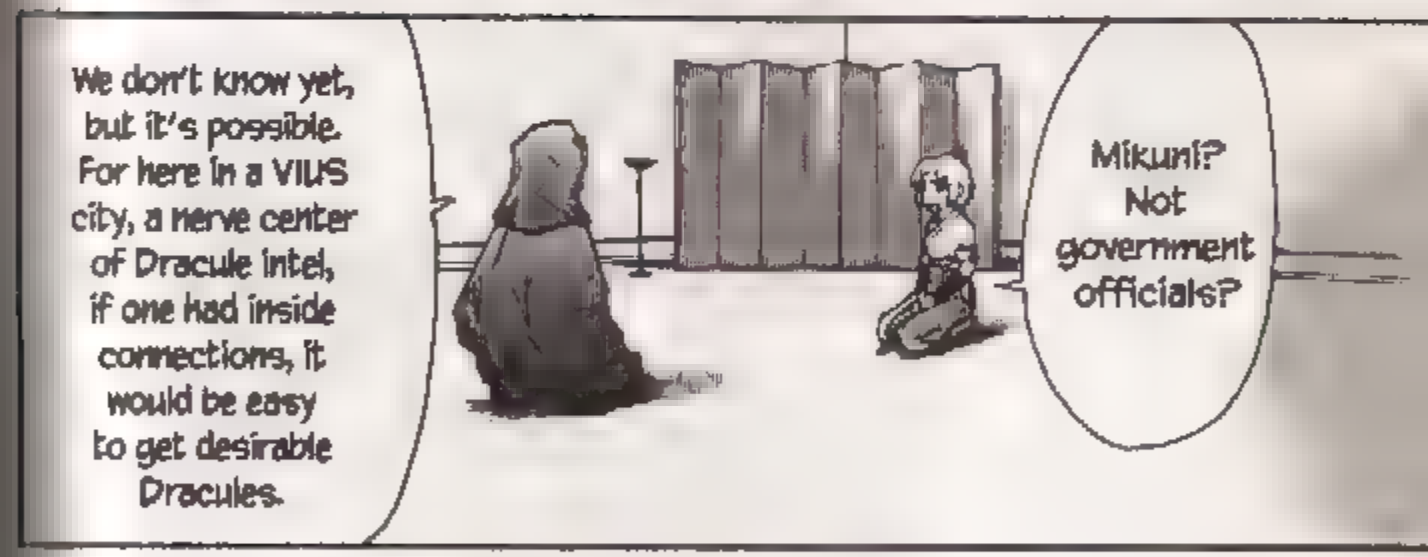

Ahem!

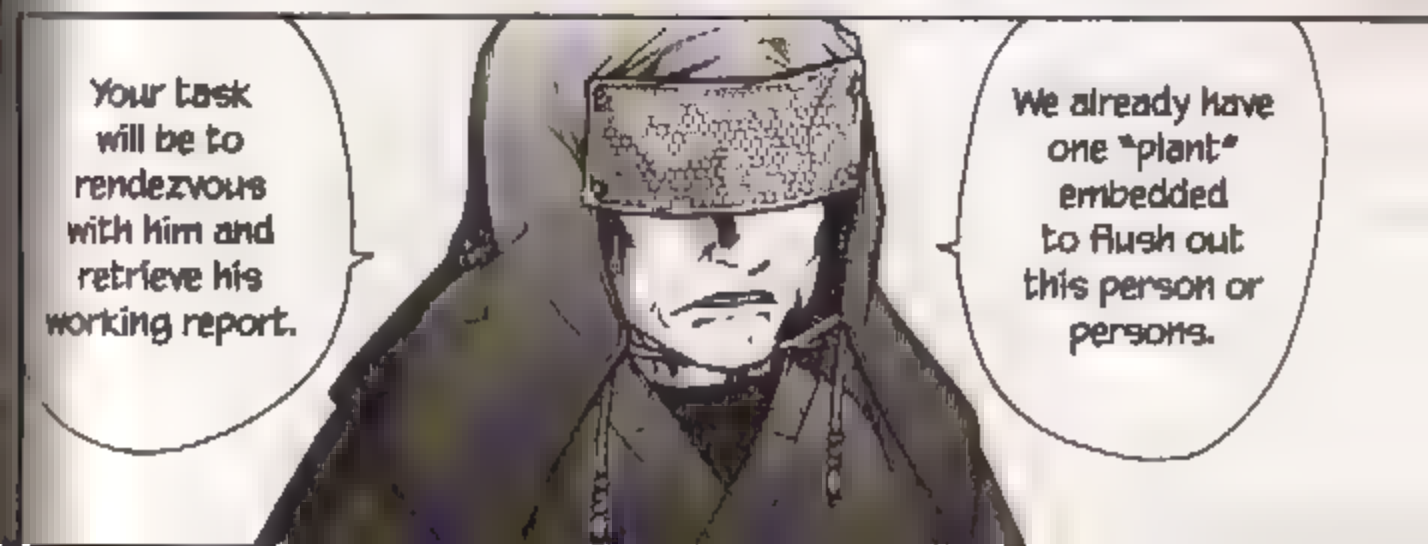
We want you to go undercover today.

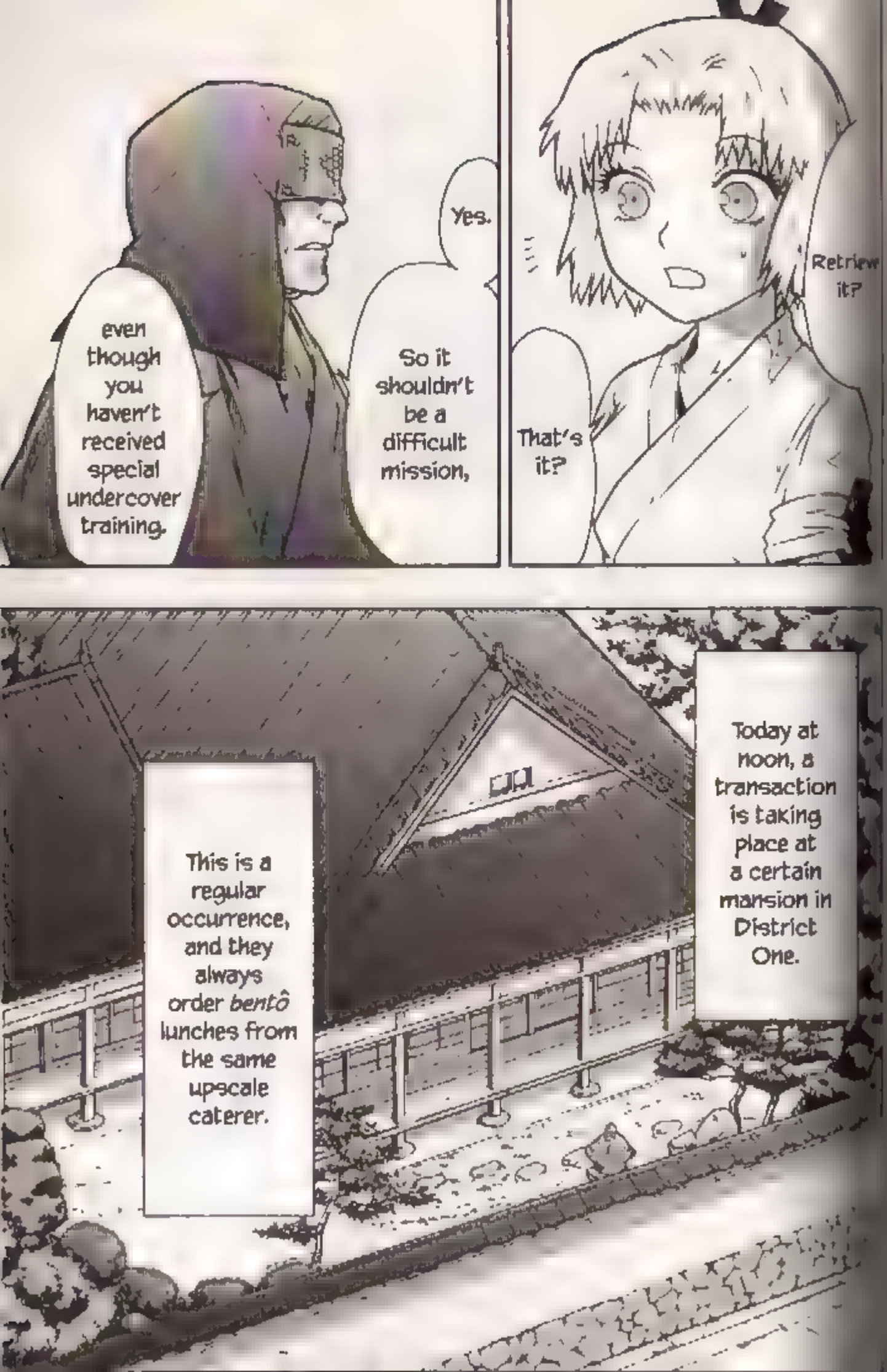

Sport?
A sick sport has become popular among the rich and powerful.

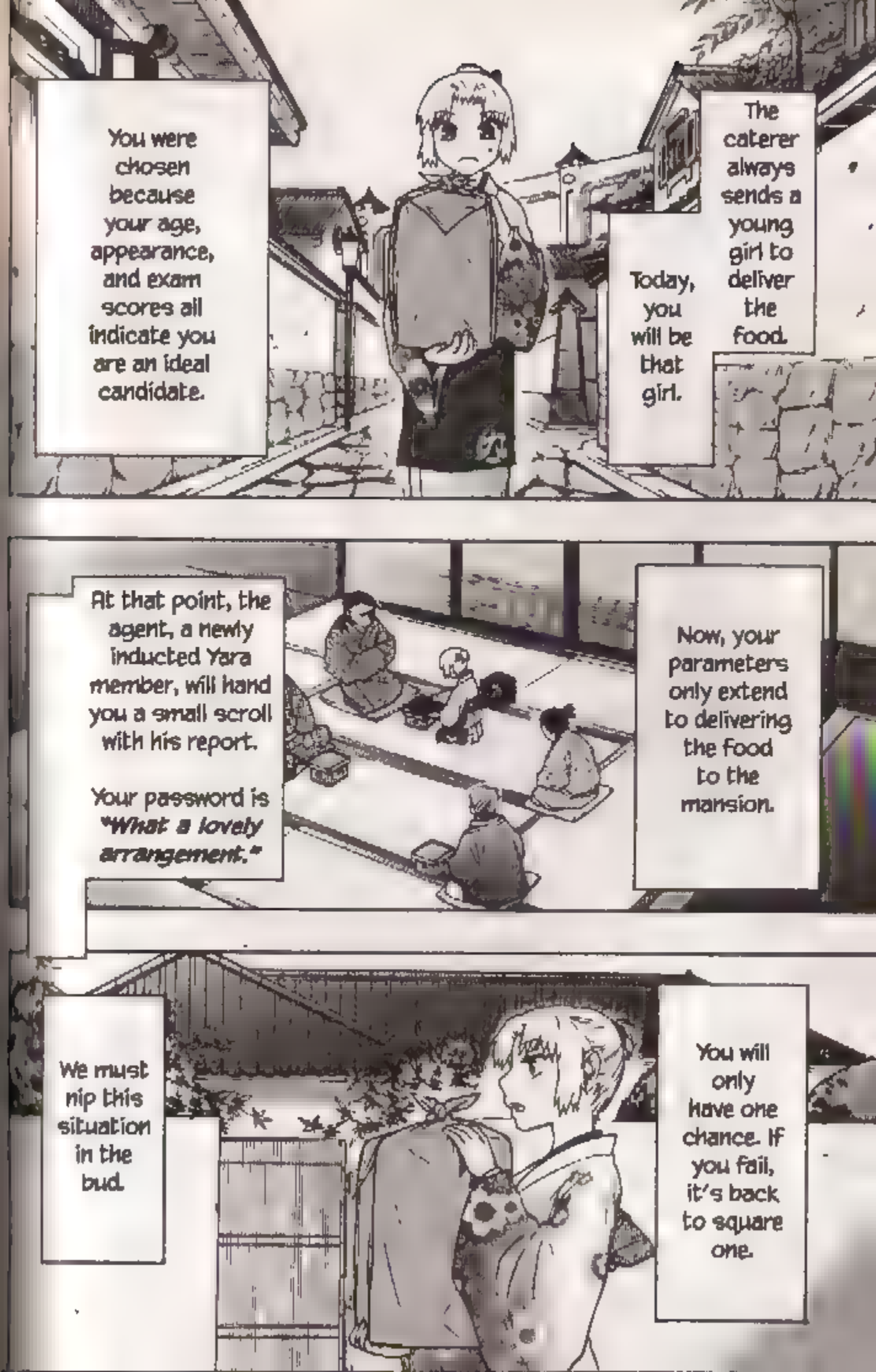

Collecting them is the new upper-class fad.
These Dracules are apparently ranked according to appearance and ability and bought and sold at high prices.
Pitting minor Dracules of Level 5 or lower against each other and betting on the outcomes.
Everyone in the vicinity might get infected!
Fad? But if something goes wrong, people aren't just going to die...
Those who already have it all often desire the risqué and the dangerous.
I'm sure the fights and auctions are heavily guarded...but it's still unfathomable

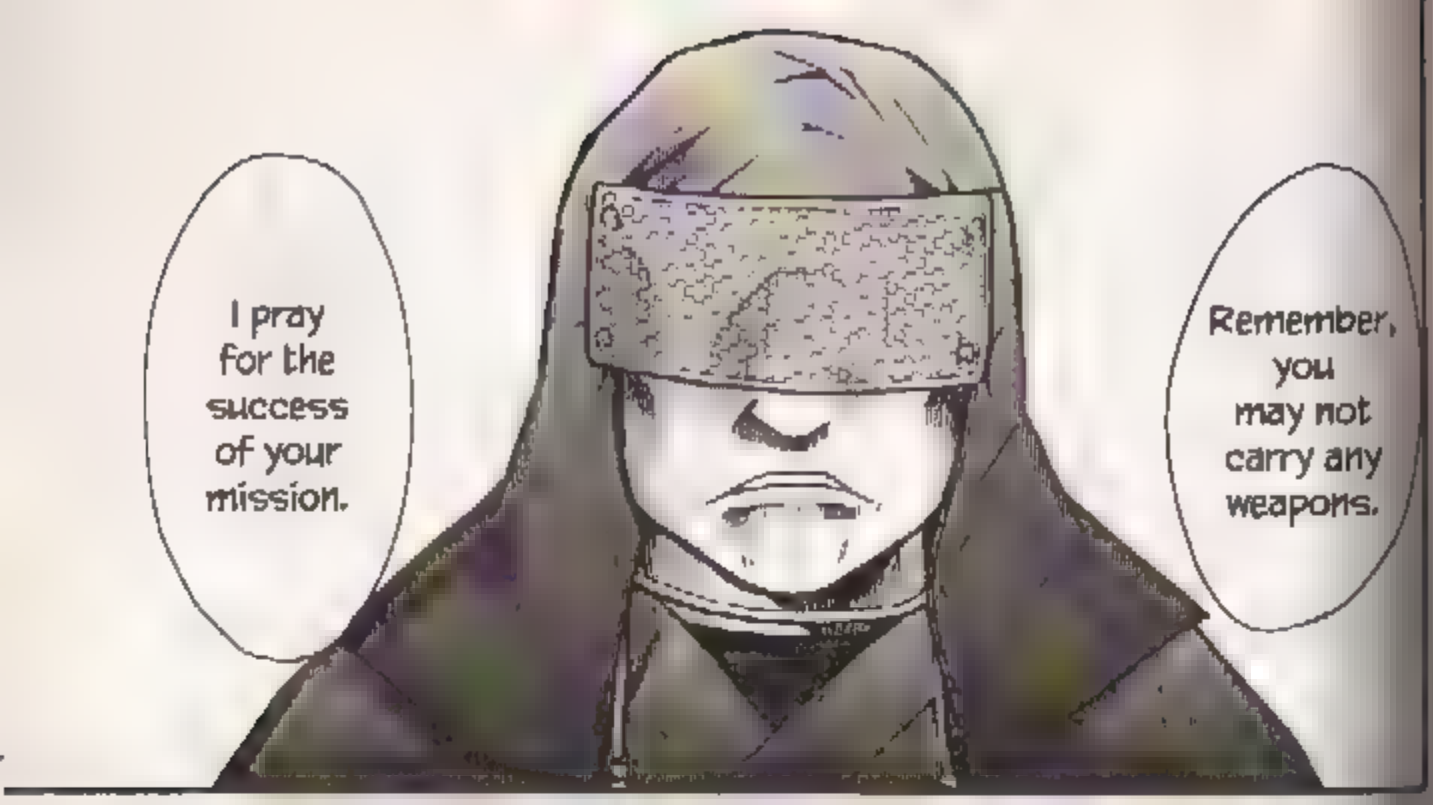

We have received intelligence *that Mikuni itself is involved on the executive level of this group.*
The mystery is their established sales routes.
It seems that an organization known as the Yara Clan has recently emerged at the forefront of Dracule sales.
LEVEL 7:
BAN


We don't know yet, but it's possible. For here in a VIUS city, a nerve center of Dracule intel, if one had inside connections, it would be easy to get desirable Dracules.
Mikuni? Not government officials?


Your task will be to rendezvous with him and retrieve his working report.
We already have one "plant" embedded to flush out this person or persons.

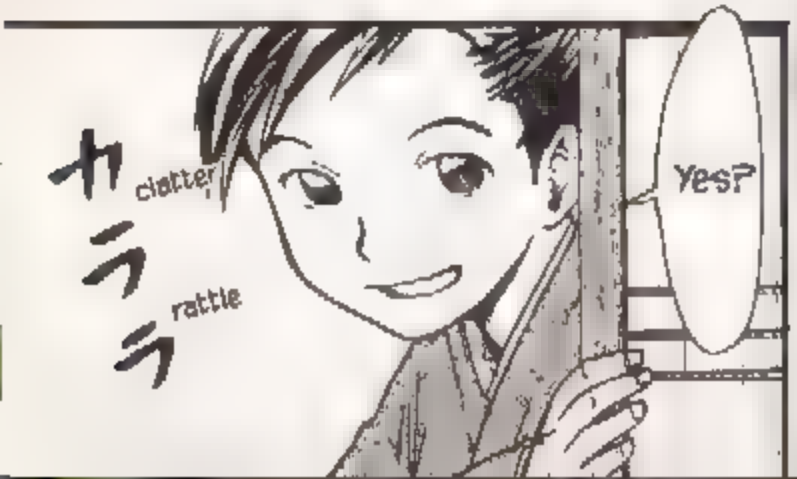

even though you haven't received special undercover training.
So it shouldn't be a difficult mission,
Yes.
That's it?
Retrieve it?
Today at noon, a transaction is taking place at a certain mansion in District One.
This is a regular occurrence, and they always order *bentô* lunches from the same upscale caterer.

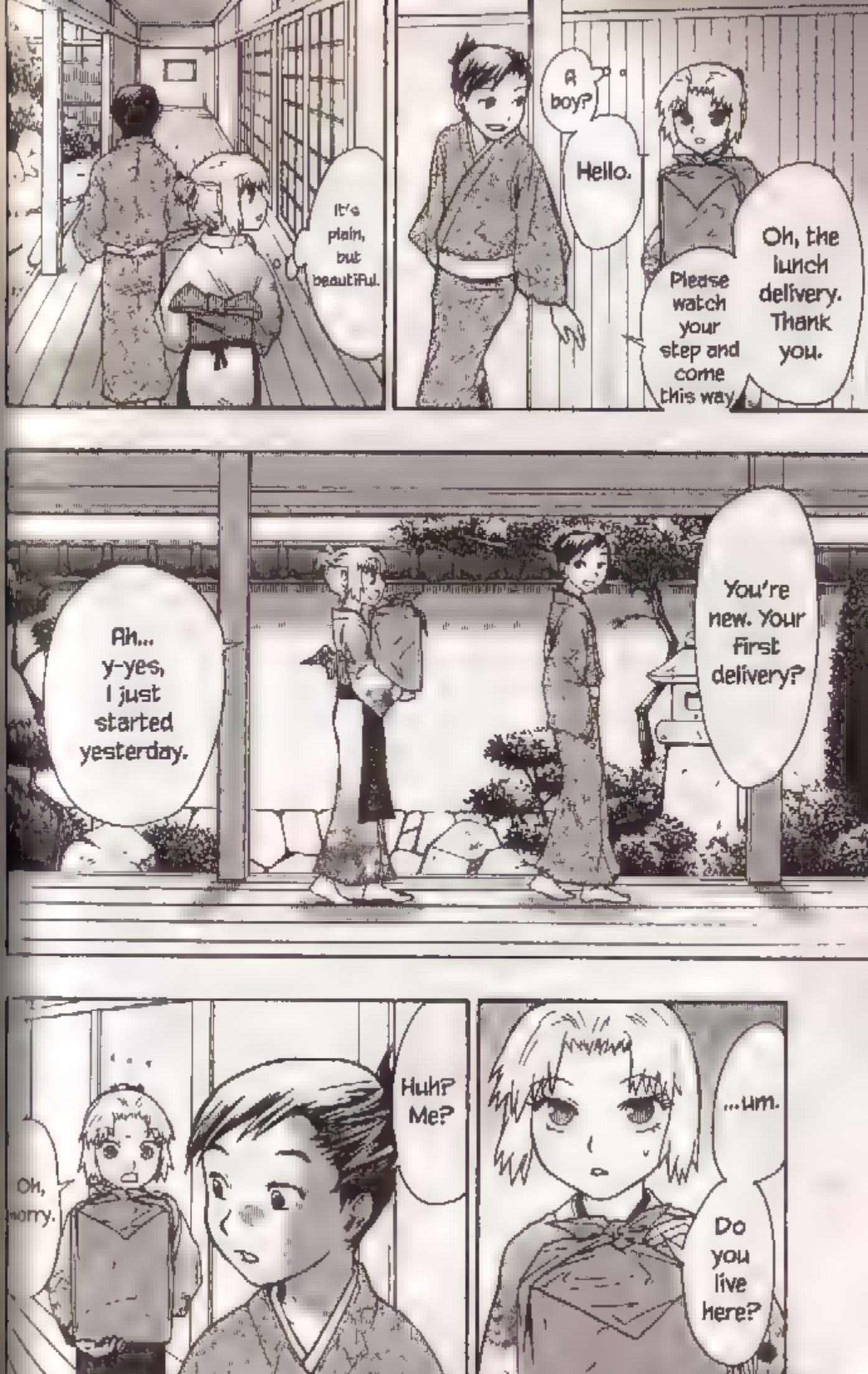

You were chosen because your age, appearance, and exam scores all indicate you are an ideal candidate.
Today, you will be that girl.
The caterer always sends a young girl to deliver the food.
At that point, the agent, a newly inducted Yara member, will hand you a small scroll with his report.
Your password is *"What a lovely arrangement."*
Now, your parameters only extend to delivering the food to the mansion.
We must nip this situation in the bud.
You will only have one chance. If you fail, it's back to square one.


I pray for the success of your mission.
Remember, you may not carry any weapons.

tinkle
tinkle

ba-dump
どき
ba-dump
どき
ba-dump
どき


clatter
カラ
ラ
rattle
Yes?


It's plain, but beautiful.
A boy?
Hello.
Please watch your step and come this way.
Oh, the lunch delivery. Thank you.
Ah... y-yes, I just started yesterday.
You're new. Your first delivery?
Oh, sorry.
Huh? Me?
...um.
Do you live here?

rattle
Sirs, lunch is served.
I lost my father recently... so I'm a new face, too.
No, no, I was taken in by the master here.

Chow time.
Aah, perfect.
Please excuse me.
Perhaps some good food and sake shall loosen your tongues.
The *bentô* from this place are among the top three in Mikuni.
I love this place.
slip
Thanks.
Enjoy.
quered
lokes.
Nice
touch.

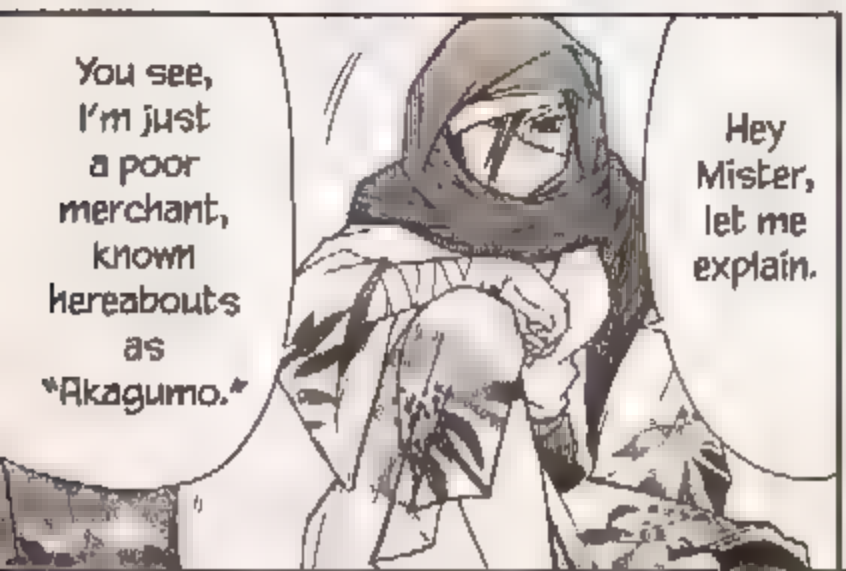
!
What a lovely arrangement..
High-class lunch boxes and fresh sake for mid-afternoon...
Thanks.
Enjoy
stomp
stomp
stomp
O... Oh...
please wait...

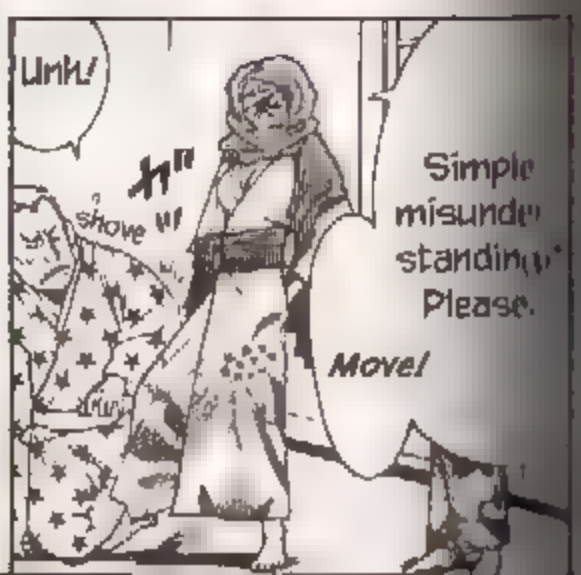
Is this where the Yara tanuki are!?
clam
whisk
!!
Y... You're...!

What a dis.
Sheesh... holding a conference on my turf without so much as a by-your-leave!

No, wait, it's just a simple misunder-standing...
Lord Yara... what is this?

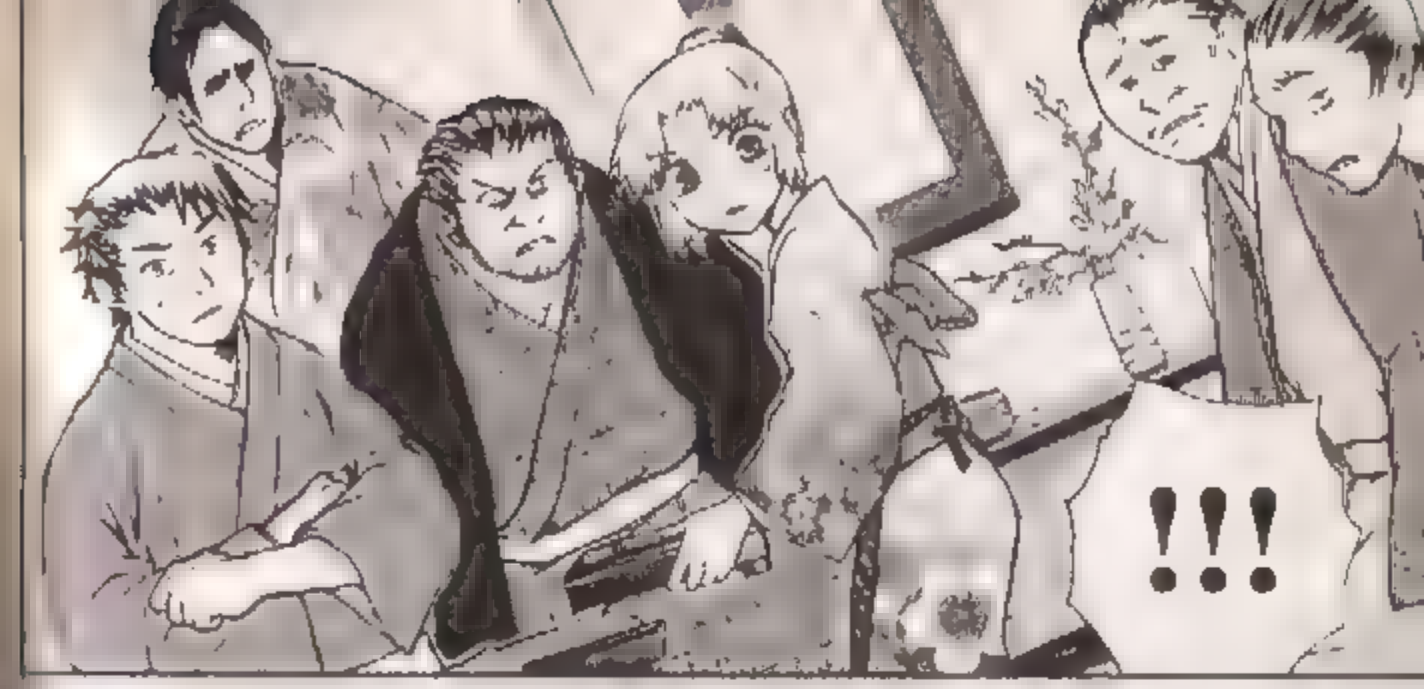
Akagumo

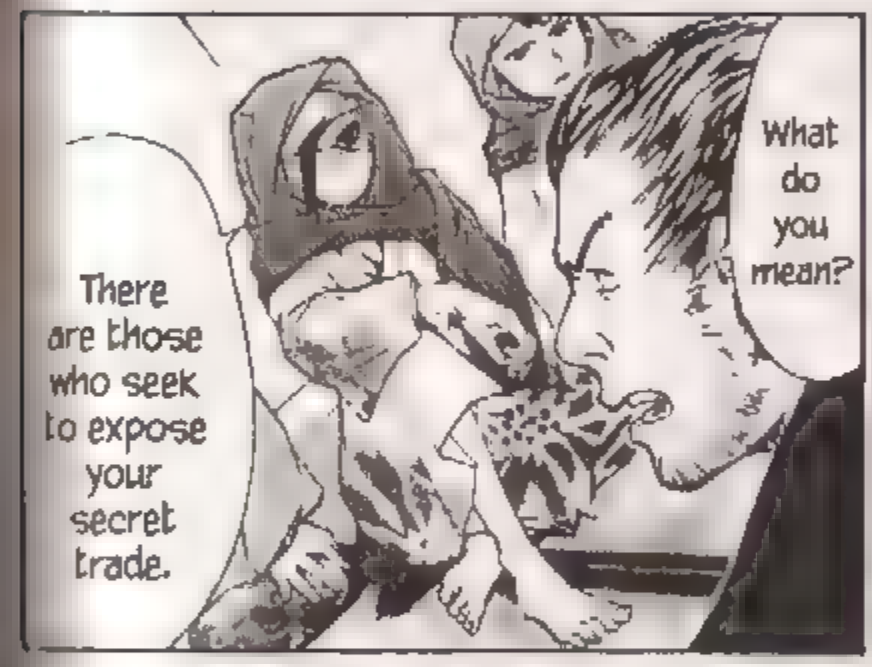

You see, I'm just a poor merchant, known hereabouts as "Akagumo."
Hey Mister, let me explain.

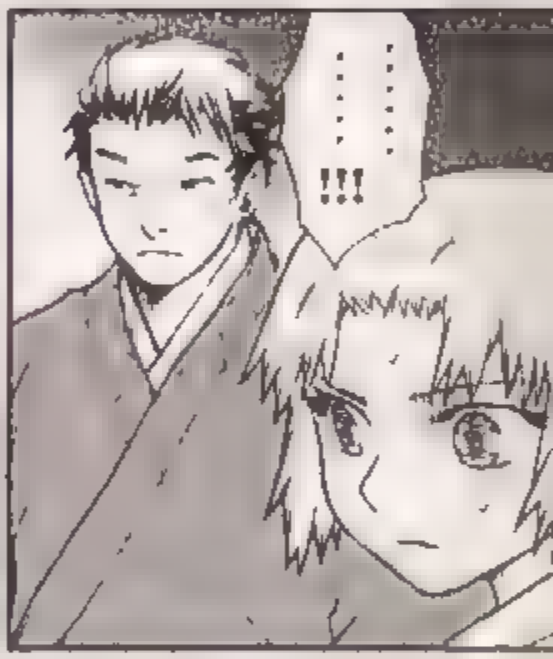

Unh!
shove
Simple misunder-standing. Please.
Move!

Merchant...?
I had heard she was arrested by Virus, though...
Yeah, right. She's the queen boss that rules the turf around here.
We've been trying to set up negotiations with these Yara Clan fellas for ages.
But not only do we not get even a face-to-face with the boss...
I hear they're having a meeting with someone else on my turf! I couldn't just ignore it.
Oh, no, what should I do? It's getting complicated. I wish I could just grab that report and leave.
mutter
mutter

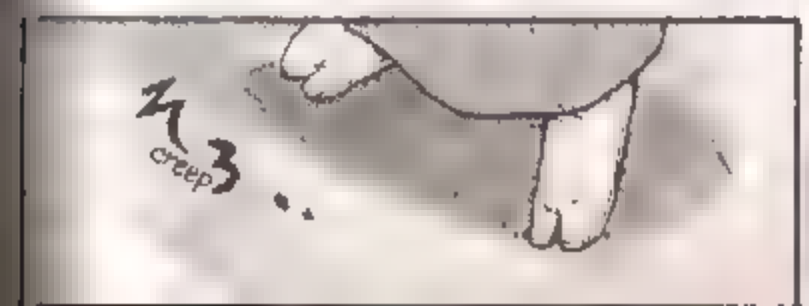
I mean, even if I had wanted to meet with you, the rumor was that you had been captured by Vius.
Missy Akagumo, you can't just crash these negotiations, either.
Sheesh, how stupid are you!?
I'm saying you've got a spy among your ranks!
You probably thought it was ideal, with me out of the way, no...? Not even realizing you're being played...
Humph I'm not that dumb
Being played


!!!


What do you mean?
There are those who seek to expose your secret trade.

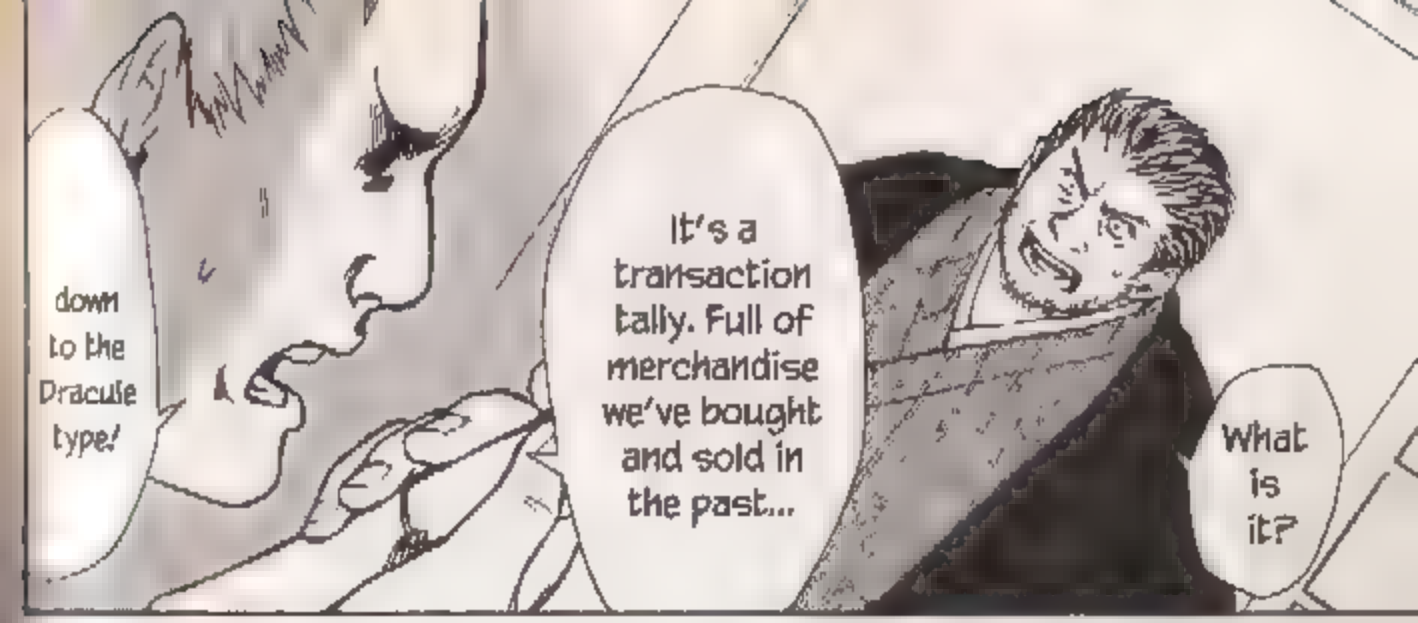

.....
!!!

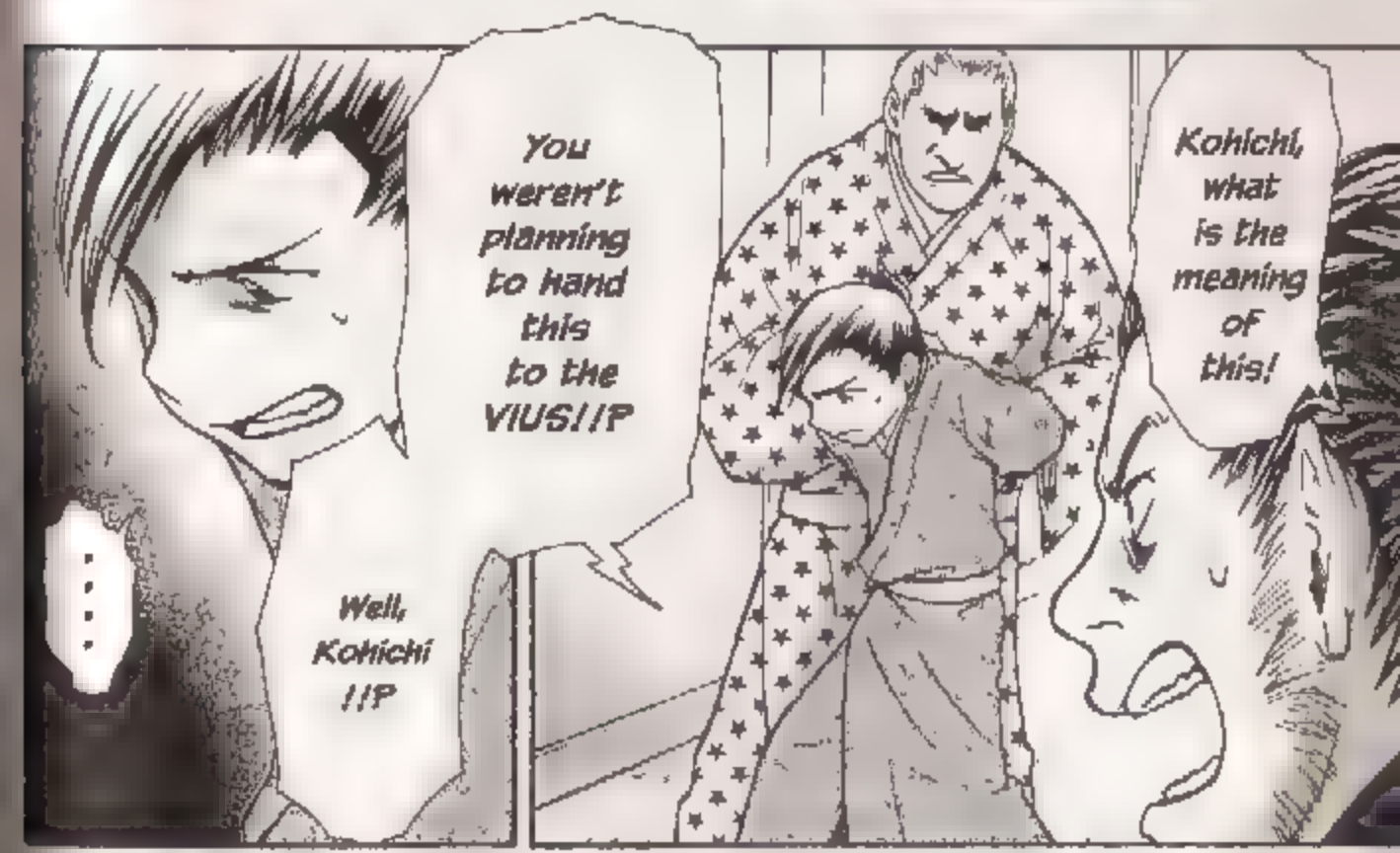
Don't tell me...the agent was discovered...!!?

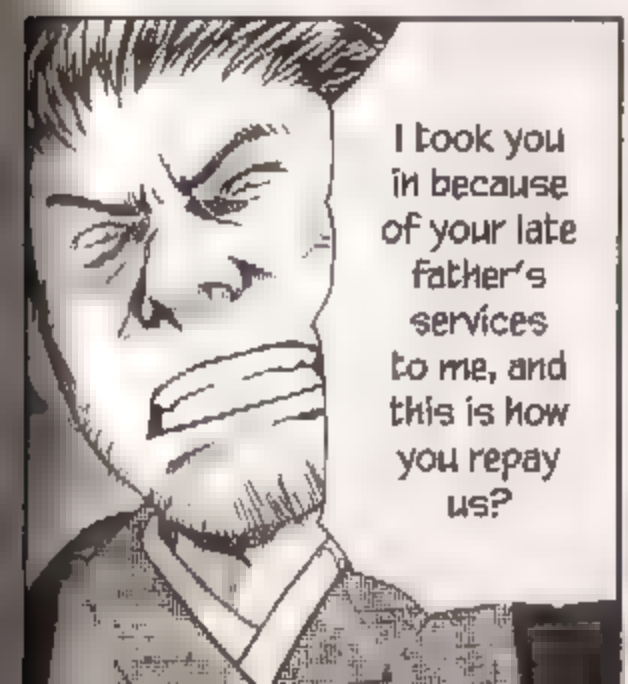

creep

Any unfamiliar faces lately?

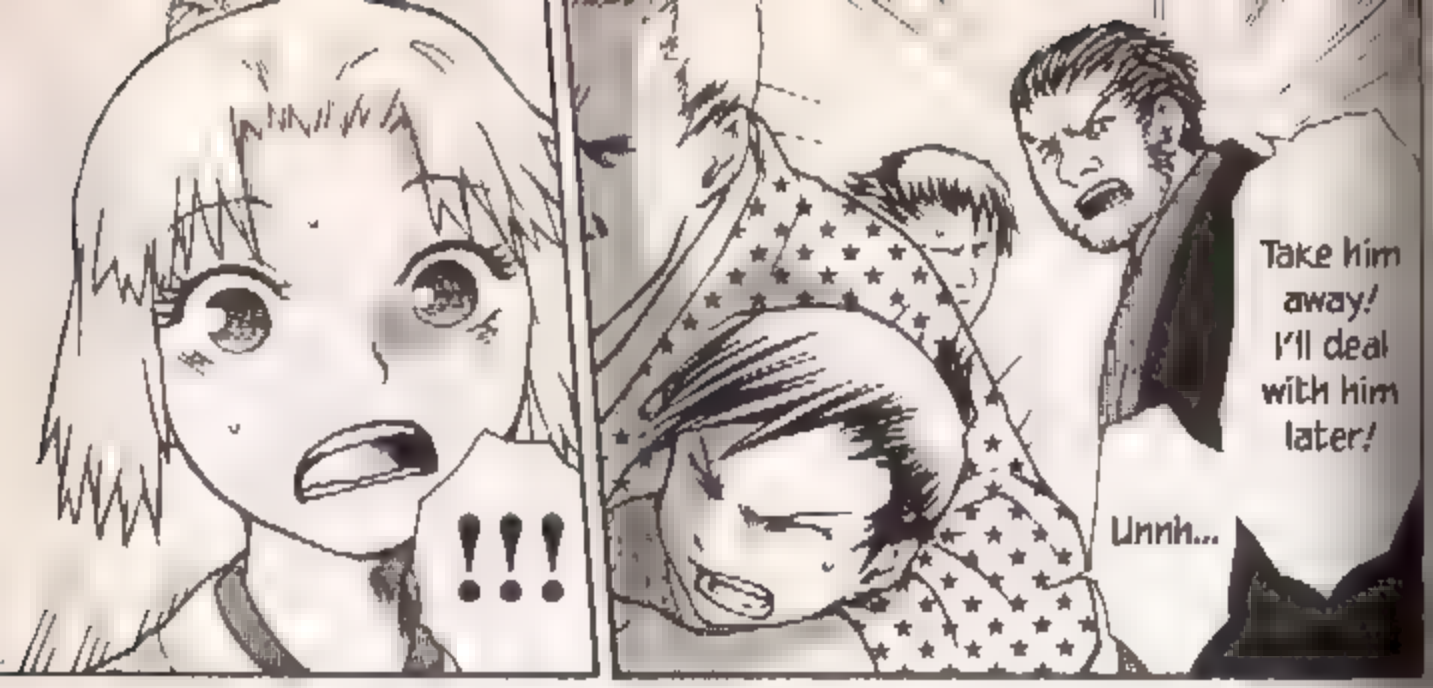
dash
Hold !!
Woah!
Kohiruki !?
He's... got this on him...!
L... Let me go!


down to the Dracula type!
It's a transaction tally. Full of merchandise we've bought and sold in the past...
What is it?

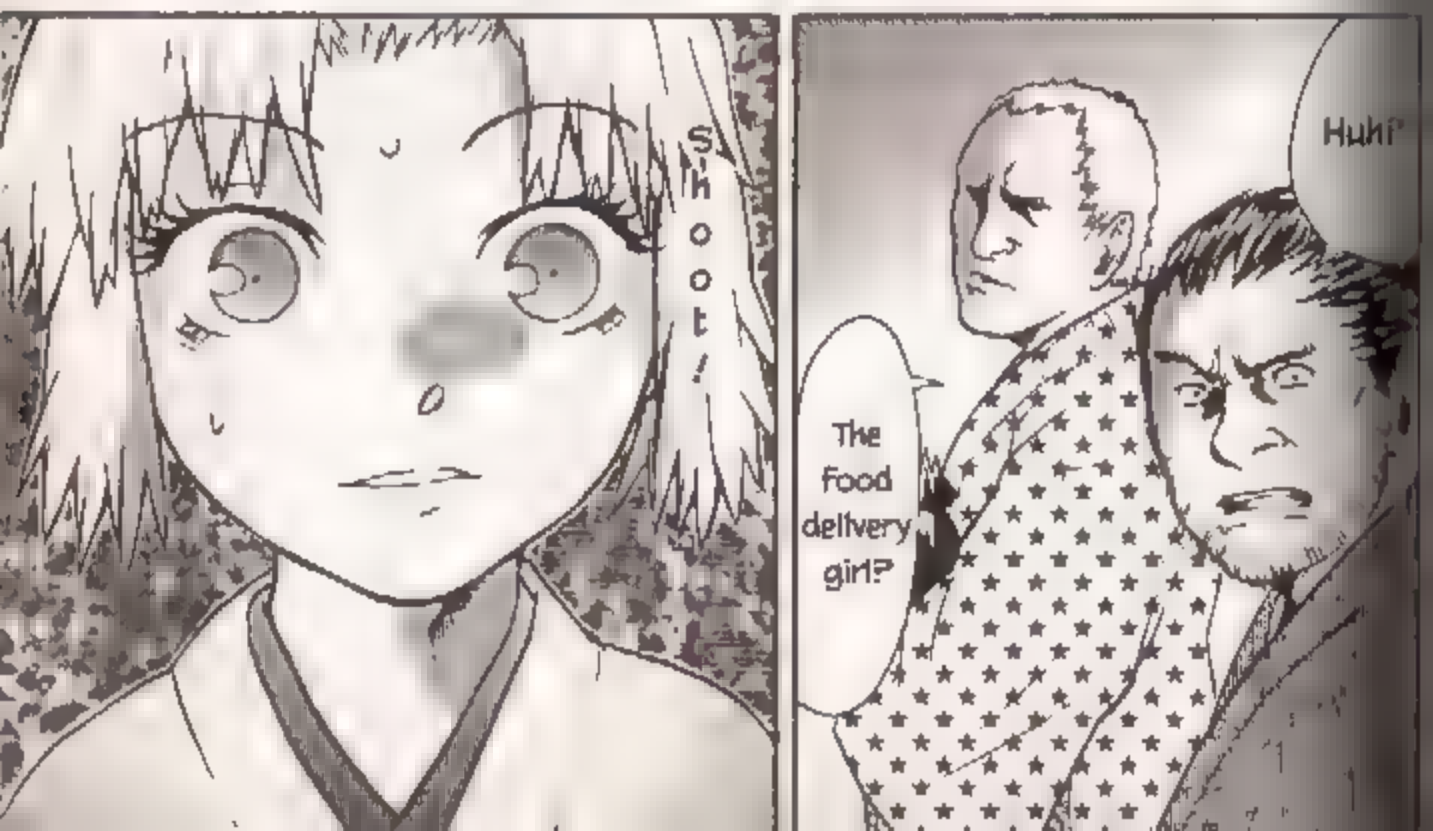

You weren't planning to hand this to the VIUS!!?
Kohichi, what is the meaning of this!
Well, Kohichi !!?


I took you in because of your late father's services to me, and this is how you repay us?

That boy... he was planning to blow the whistle on the Yara Clan...!?
Then it wasn't us who had been uncovered!?


!!!
Take him away! I'll deal with him later!
Unnh...

Wait !!


Shoot!
Huh?
The food delivery girl?

I spoke aloud... but if I don't do anything, they're going to kill that boy!!

Uh-oh.

Besides which, this is outside my parameters.

I still have to complete my mission...

Yet I don't have any weapons today.

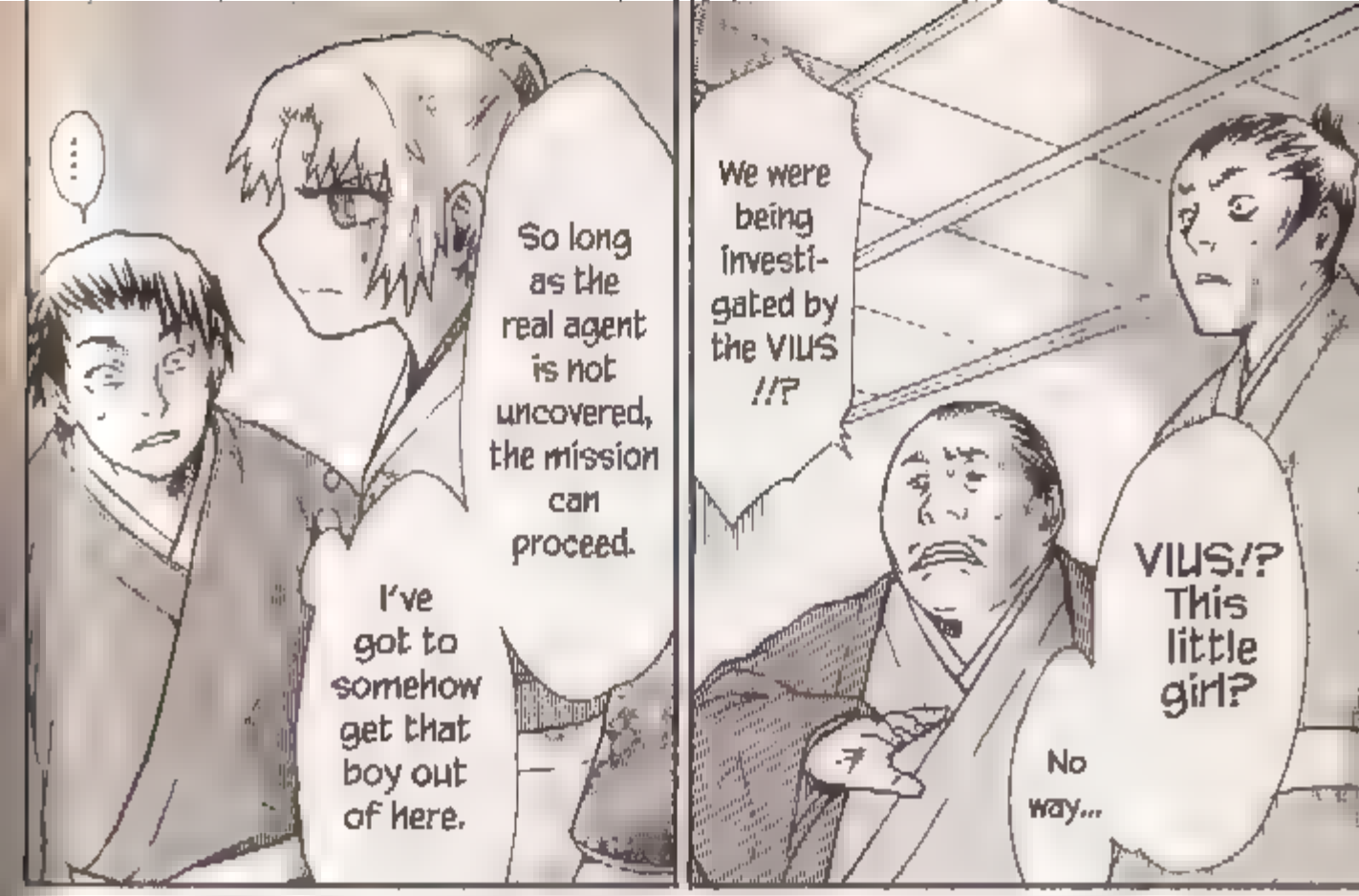
You go home. This is our problem.

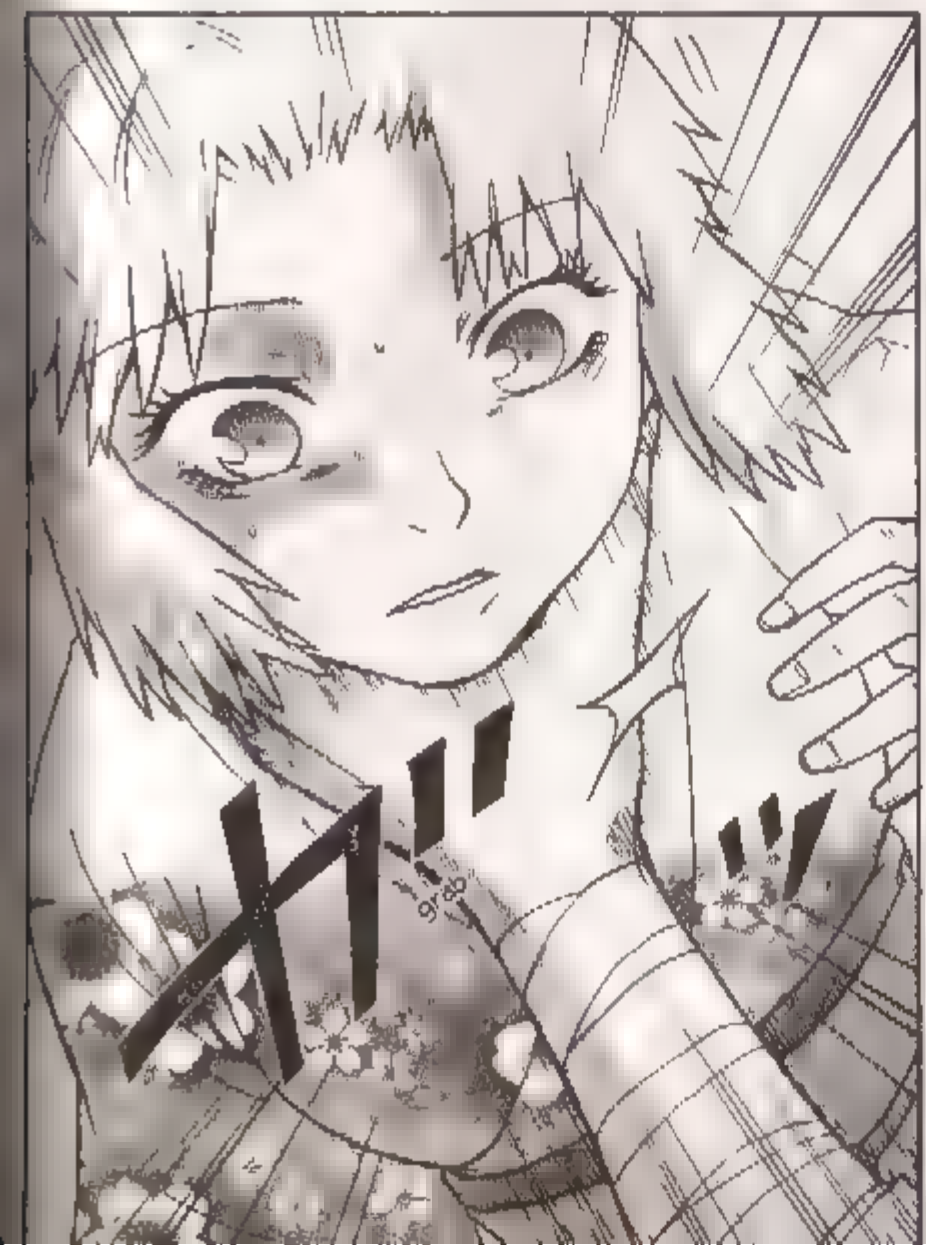
Give your thanks to your hef.

Uh...

Your parameters only extend to delivering the food to the mansion.

am the VIUS spy!!
I...
I asked him to compile that tally!!
!!?
Please let him go!
He was only obeying my orders!


...
So long as the real agent is not uncovered, the mission can proceed.
I've got to somehow get that boy out of here.
We were being investi-gated by the VIUS !!?
VIUS!? This little girl?
No way...

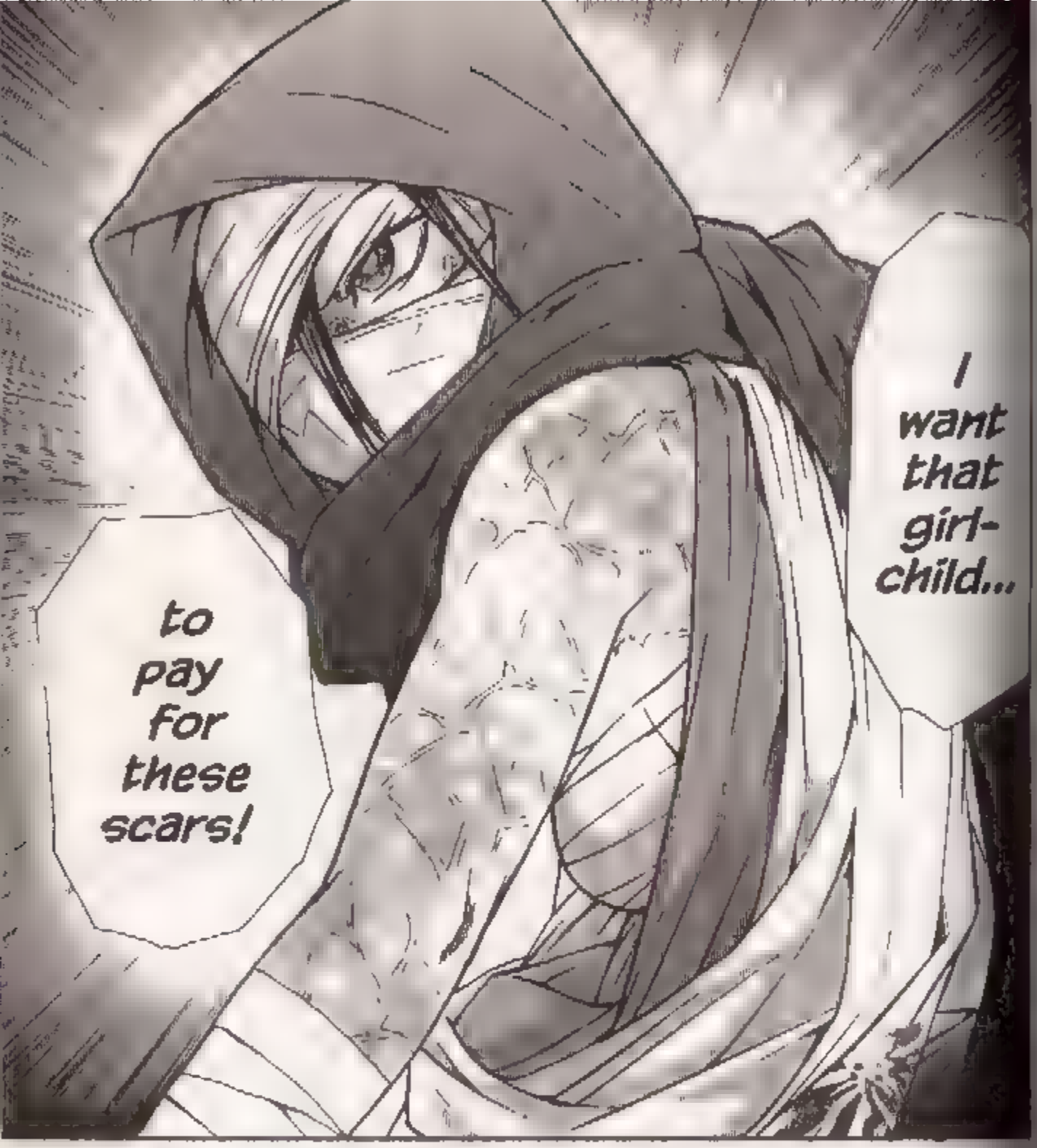

!!
grab

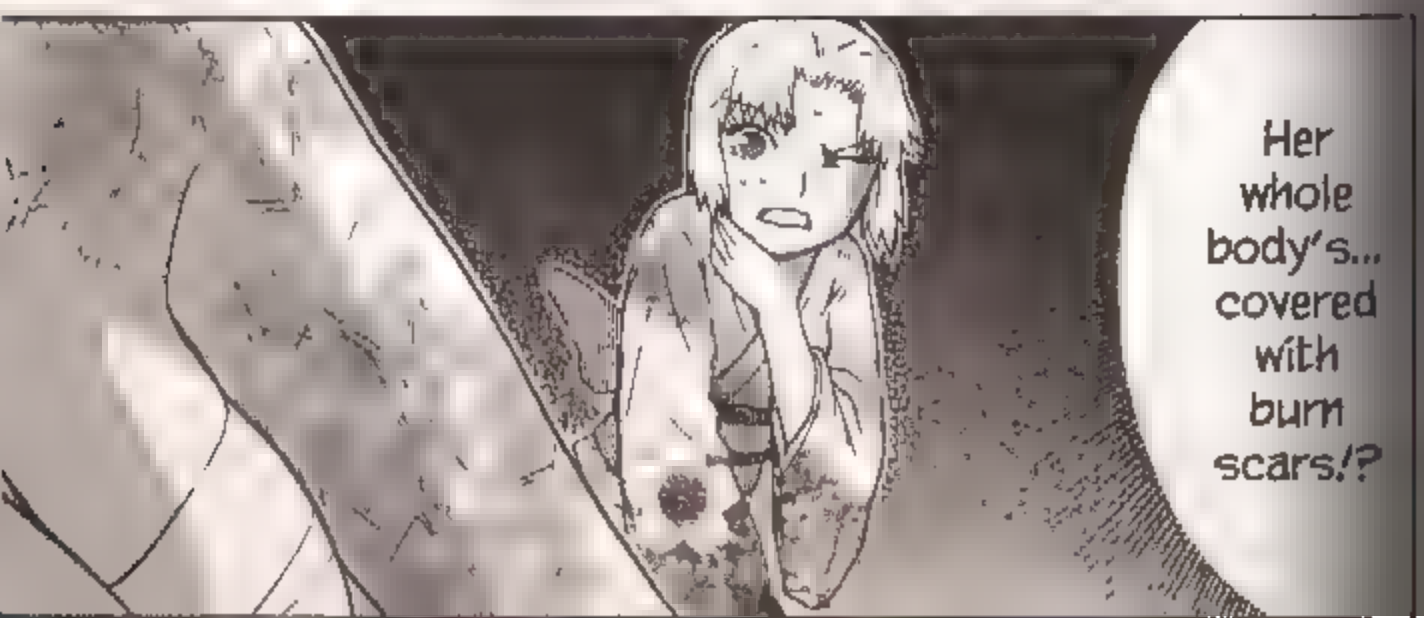
...!!

clop

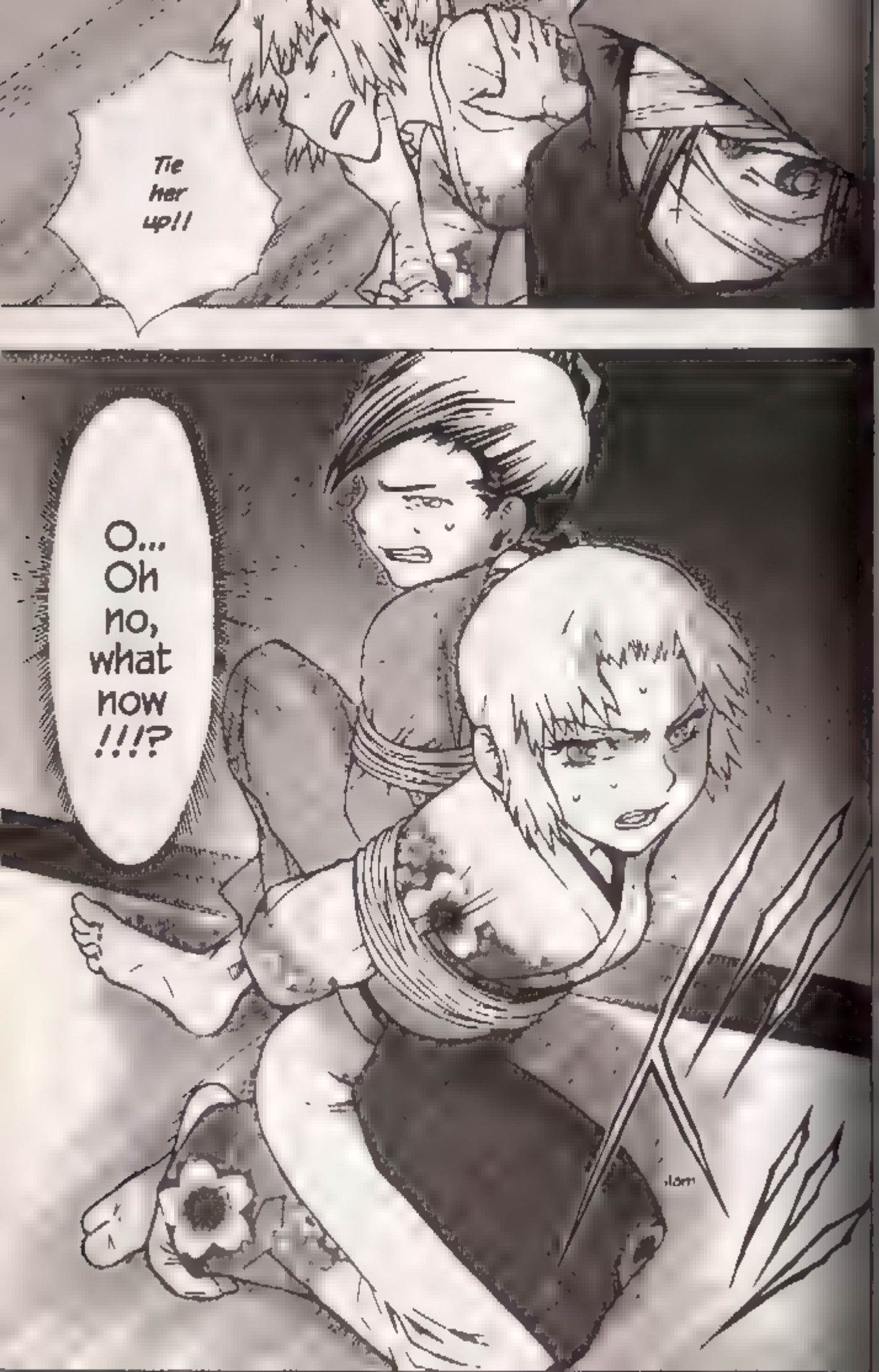
This child... is VIUS !!?
……ッ

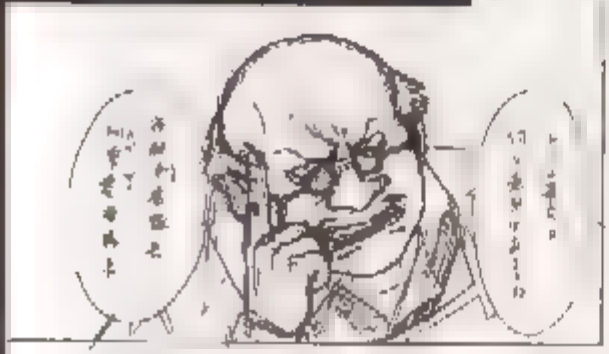
Wha... Akagumo!! No interfering... !!
I want her for myself !!
I've got plenty of gripes against the VIUS!!
Shut your trap!! You all know...
tug.
I'll give you that much.
You've got guts, to expose yourself before me.
Ugh...
GRIPES

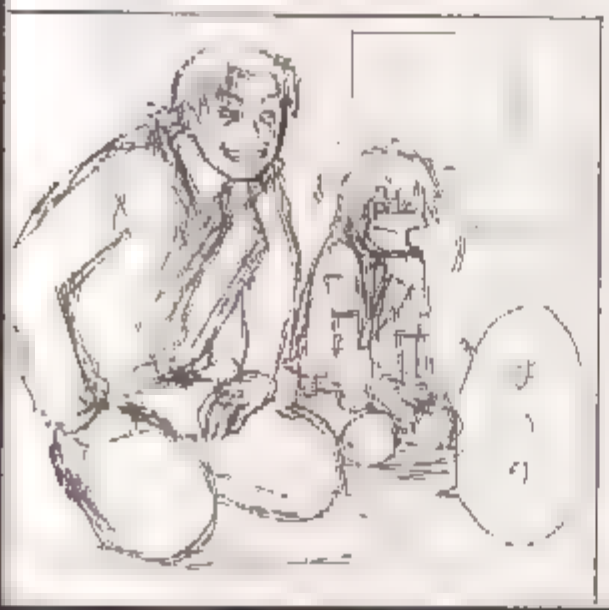

I want that girl-child...
to pay for these scars!


Her whole body's... covered with burn scars!?

This woman... she's thin, but super-strong.
clench
Ow...
Humph... on second glance, she's rather cute.
I can't wait to get my hands on you!


Tie her up!!
O... Oh no, what now !!!?





Dragon Eye Tidbits

KAIAI
FUJIYAMA
4
DRAGON
EYE

= Dragon Eye =

Kairi Fujiyama

Mission ⓘ Ten
If You Should Ever Recall This Day Someday
5

Mission ⓘ Eleven
Leila's Errand
71

Mission ⓘ Twelve
The Evil Plot in Motion
[illegible]

Extra
194

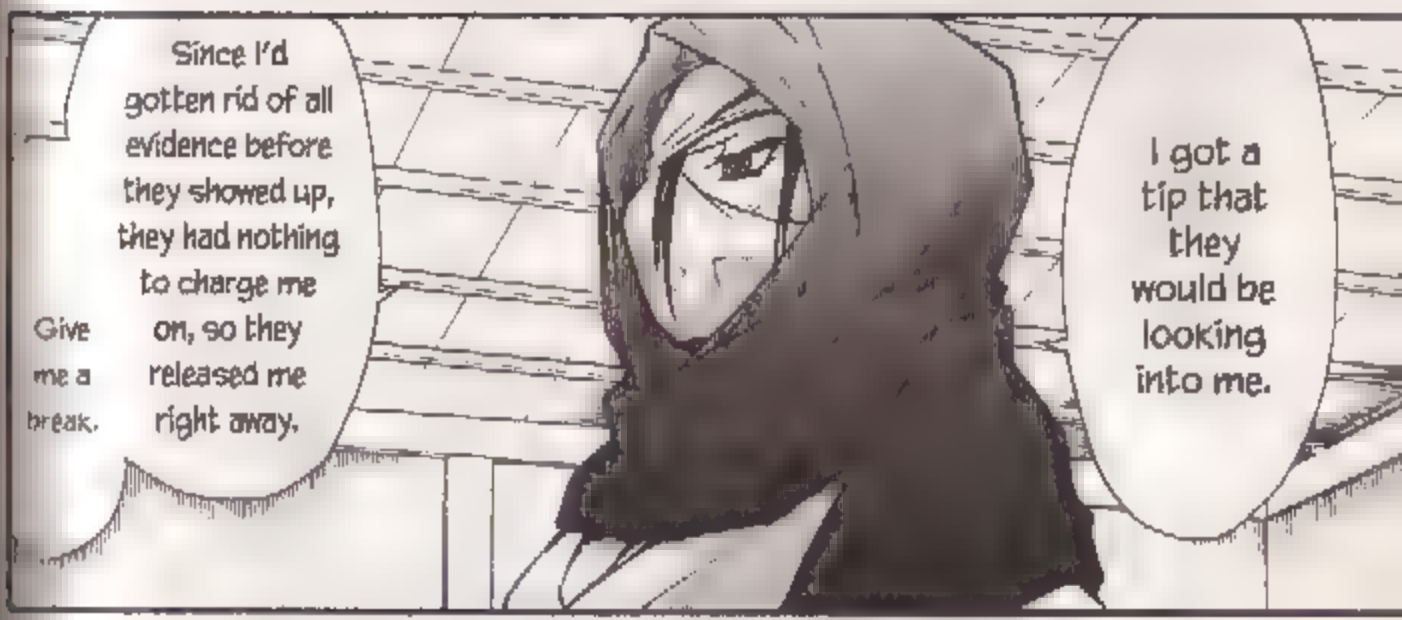
Humph... on second glance, she's rather cute.
I can't wait to get my hands on you!

Mission Twelve
The Evil Plot in Motion

!!
grope
This girl really is VIUS?
A VIUS badge... It's authentic !!?
Ho ho... She kindly brought it along.
hoist
What kind of shop?
Shop?
glare
What? Don't pout, cutie.
I almost want you working in my shop.

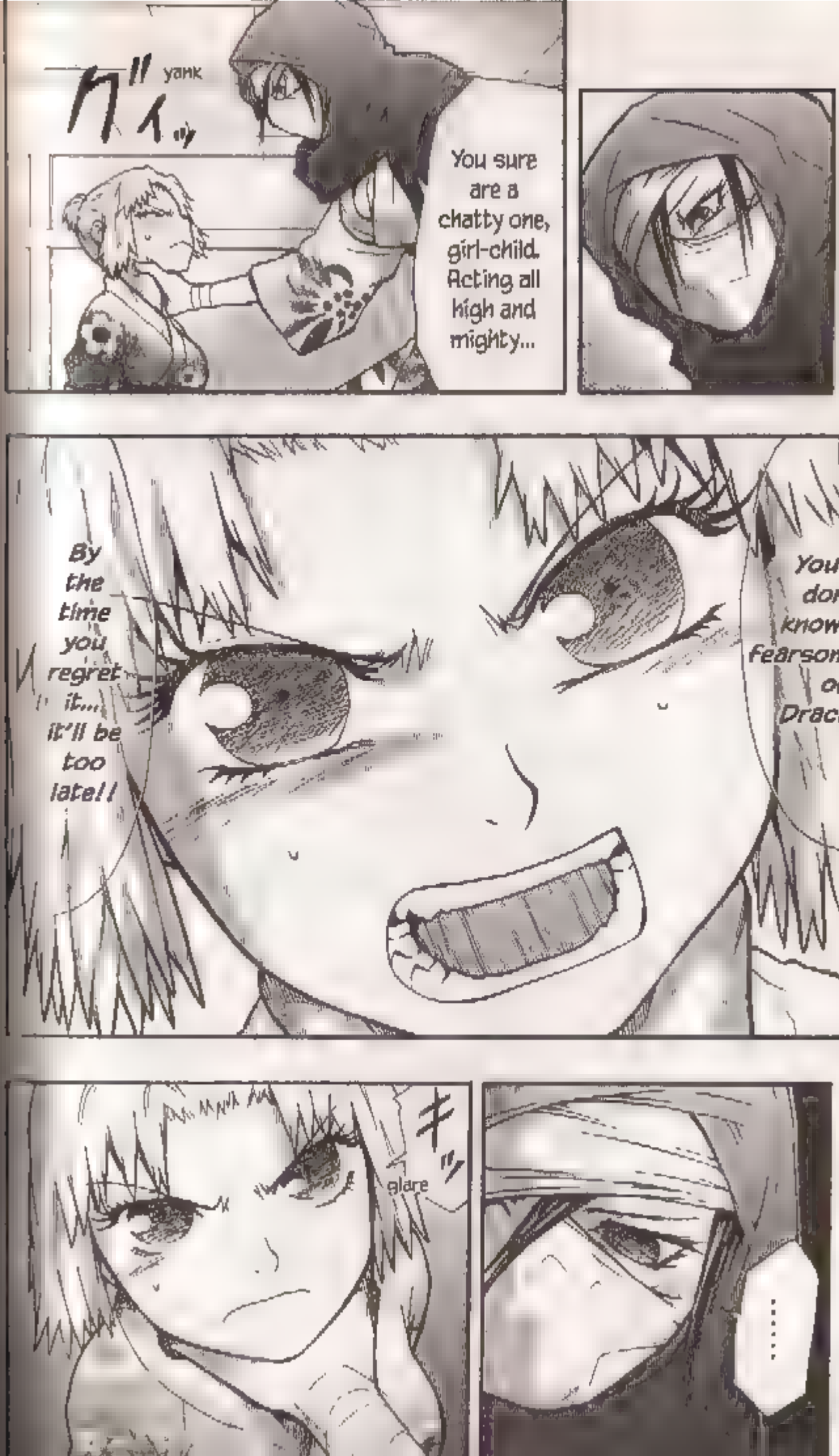
First, the real deal. I want in on this transaction.
And you better not object.
yank
Humph. We'll have plenty of fun later.
Boss, Akagumo's motive is to grab a piece of the sales route. If we entertain her now, she'll just be trouble down the line...
I know. But even if we turn her down, she'll keep pestering.
What !?
Hum?
I've got customers who are willing to offer high bids for your merchandise.
I bet they can name a price that can compete with those two's.
Well? If you're true merchants, show me your game.

You were in VIUS custody until recently, weren't you!? How did you get out!!?
Hold on! I don't trust you!
Grr...

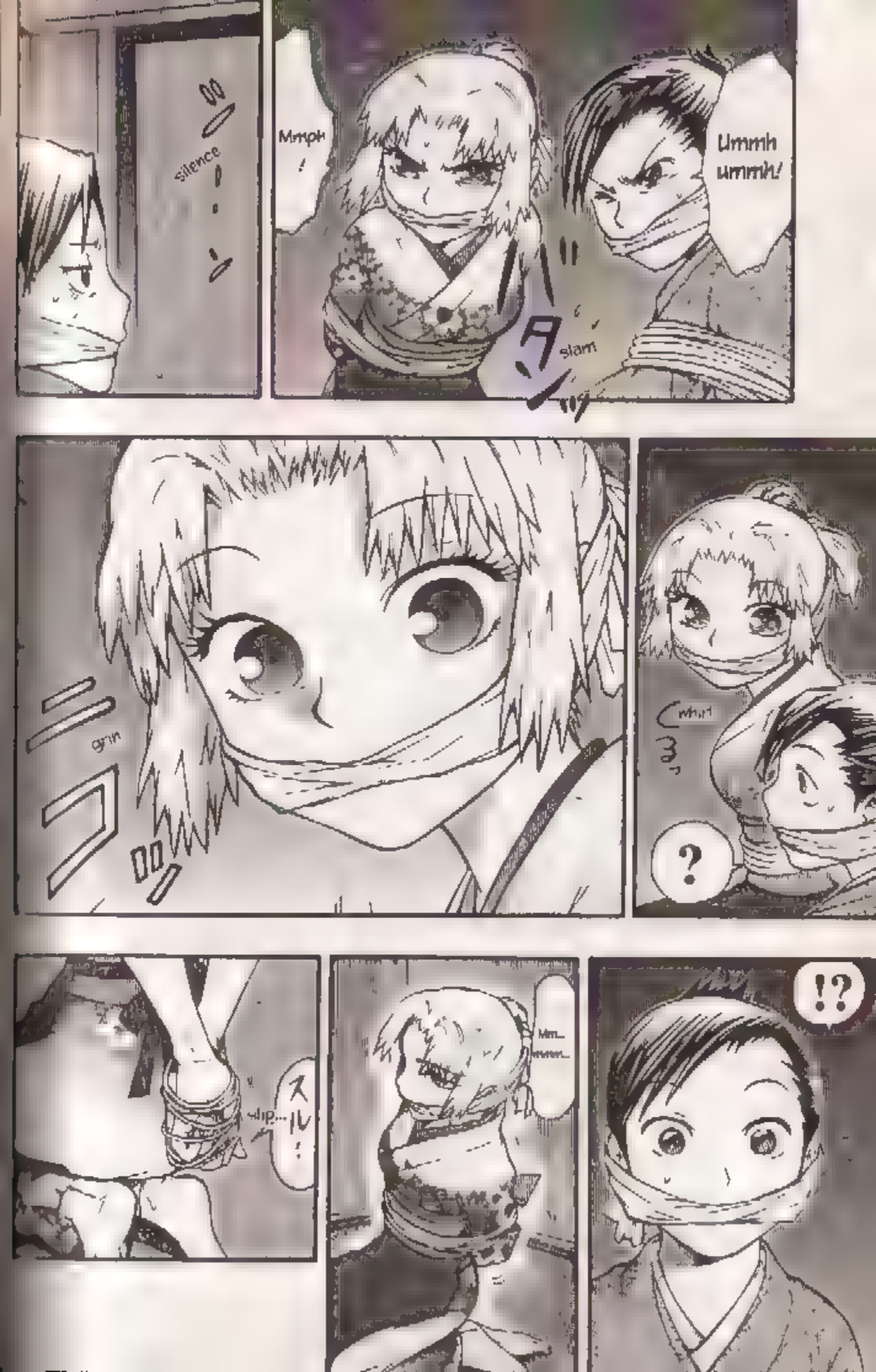

Since I'd gotten rid of all evidence before they showed up, they had nothing to charge me on, so they released me right away.
Give me a break.
I got a tip that they would be looking into me.

clench
Me, strike a deal with the VIUS?
!
I meant... maybe you've struck a backroom deal with them to sell us out or something?

What !?
I will never forget these scars I got thanks to the VIUS! I would never sell my soul to them!
You've got to be kidding me!
You won't get away with this forever.
You're trafficking in Dracules, aren't you?
you're greatly mistaken.
If you think you can tame and keep Dracules like pets...
glare


yank
You sure are a chatty one, girl-child. Acting all high and mighty...
By the time you regret it... it'll be too late!!
You all don't know the fearsomeness of Dracules!
glare
.....

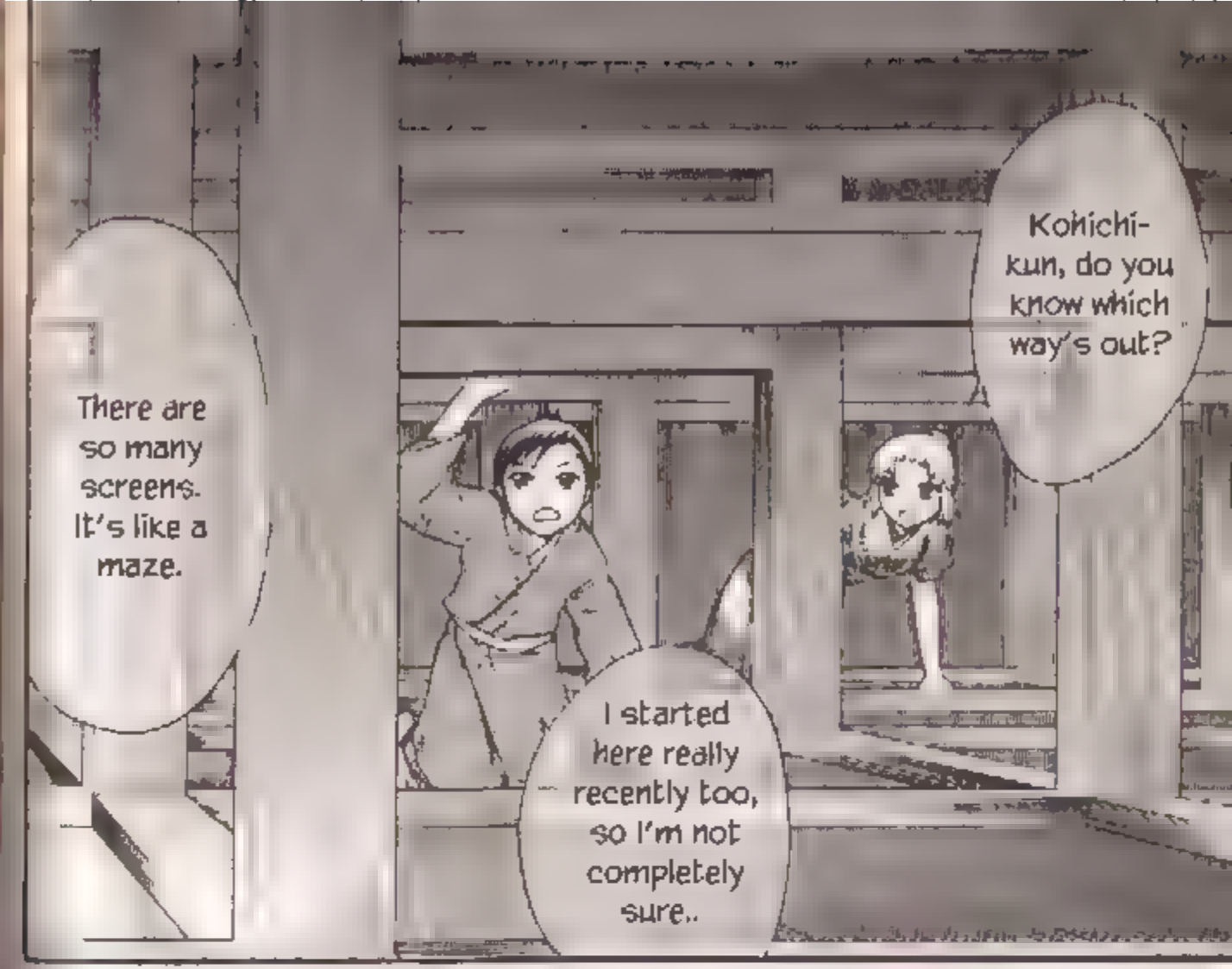
Gah! You impertinent wench!!
Enough, Akagumo!! They're in the way. Just throw them in a closet somewhere until we're done!!
!?
Well, good to see someone's smart.
I hope you give me a good answer today.
We'll let you in this time! The rest of you, shut up!
You be good!
wham

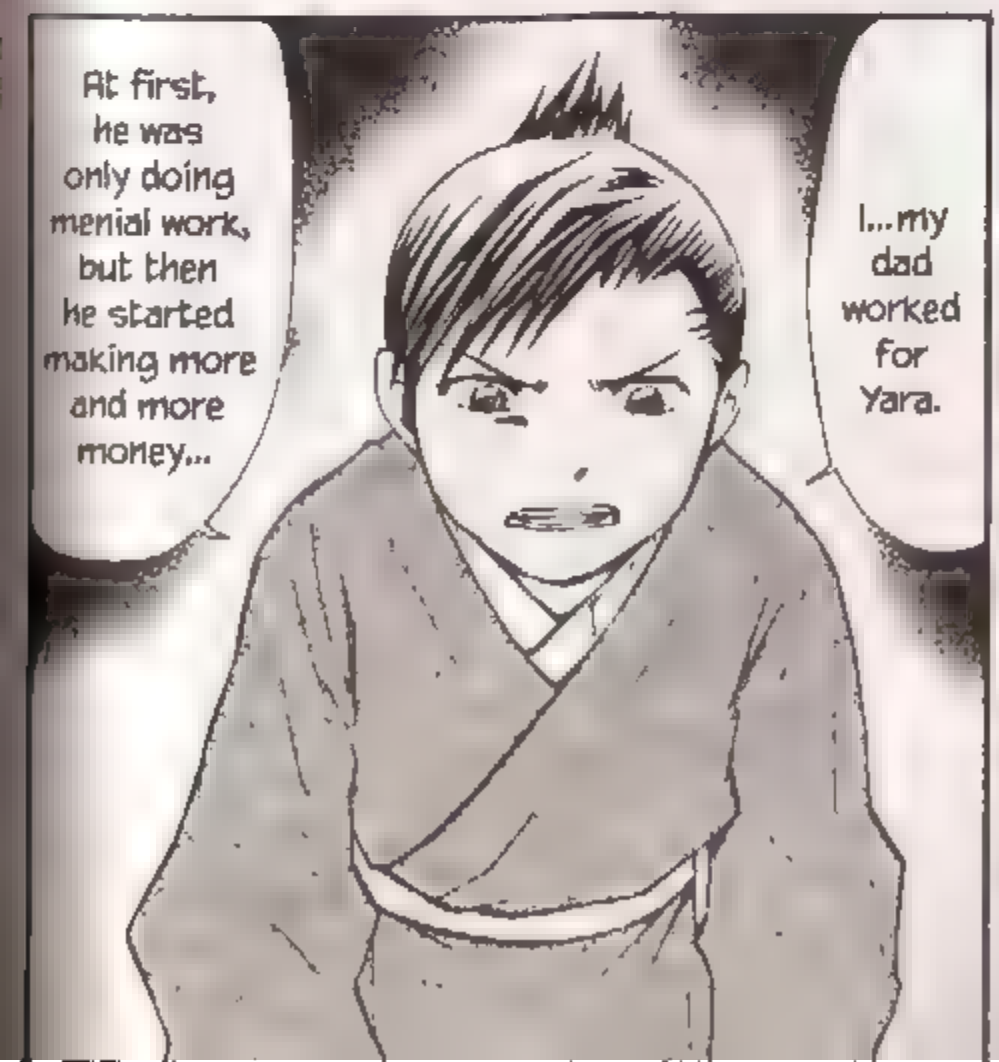

silence
Mmph!
Ummh ummh!
slam
grin
what
?
slip...
スル!
Mm...
!?

tug
!
fwhap
Kohichi-kun, I'll get you right now.
snap
phwa
Y..
You're...
yank
!!
flutter
Hold still

Let's get out of here first.
We'll talk later.
Shh.
We can go this way.
They've propped the door closed.
Let's move in the direction of the door.

I am so glad Master Shimon taught me how to slip rope bonds.
Although if they had tied them tighter, I might have been in trouble.
You... really are a VIUS.
I've never been this close to one before.
Huh?
We still have to get out of here, you know.
I'm Leila. Nice to meet you, Kohichi-kun.


There are so many screens. It's like a maze.
I started here really recently too, so I'm not completely sure..
Kohichi-kun, do you know which way's out?


At first, he was only doing menial work, but then he started making more and more money...
I...my dad worked for Yara.

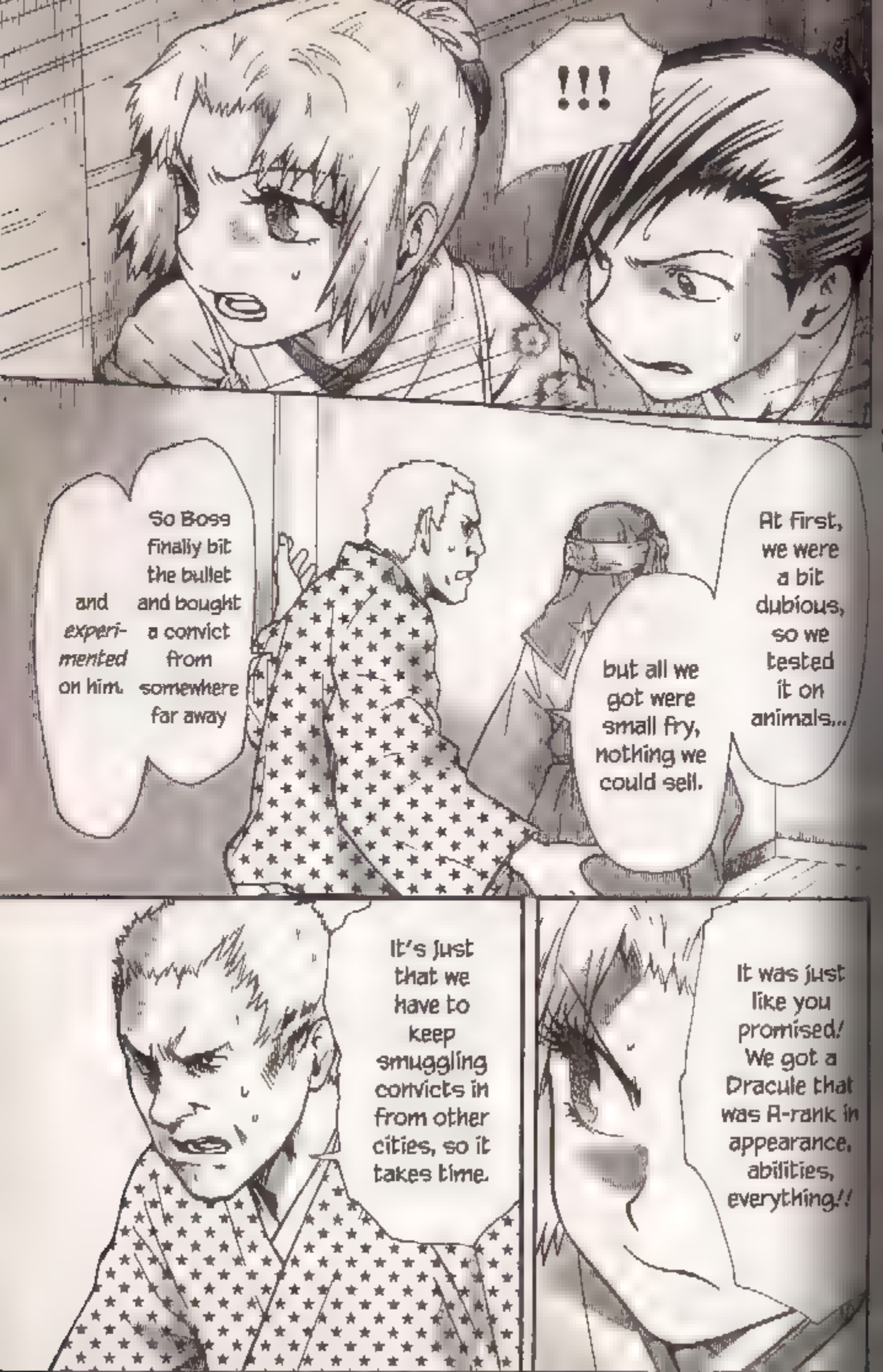
By the way, you were going to expose the Yara Clan earlier, right?
Why?

I'll be able to buy you whatever you want!
Kohichi, we're gonna be rich!
Dad, if it's dangerous, don't do it.
One day, he landed a transport job, but...
!!
and then three months later...he died.
When I asked him what he was transporting, he wouldn't tell me...
Something happened, and Dad got infected!
Dad was transporting Draculea!
The Yara members told me it was an accident, but they wouldn't give me any details... and then, I figured it out.

But I've got to stop them!!
I can't let this go on!!
The Yara members took me in
because Dad had been such a hard worker, they said, but...
I can't believe Akagumo knew! How did she find out?
to rat on the Clan.
So that's why you tried to sneak out that transaction tally..
It seems like she's got a grudge against VIUS, so I'm glad you're getting away, Leila-chan.
Something bad would have happened to you.
But I've heard that she's been asking the Yara Clan to get involved for a while now.
That woman... who is she?
That was the first time I ever saw her, too.

They're intentional, to prevent intruders. Geez, they're good.
Oh dear, dead ends every-where.
But at the end...it seemed like she smiled at me.
Yeah...
sidle
sidle
It can't be helped– let's climb back down.
Shoot! Over here!
dash
step
step
step
!
ow
click

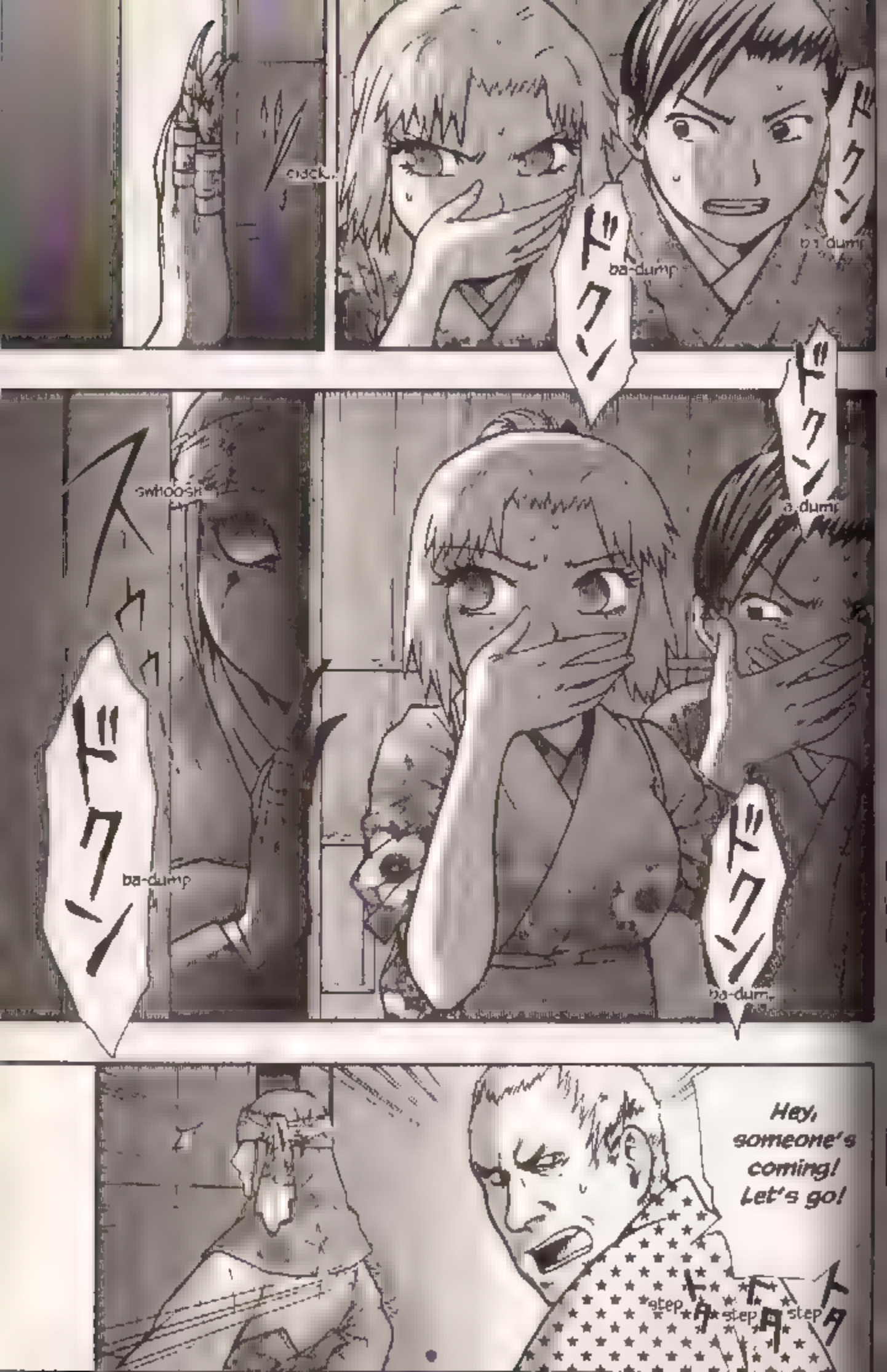
Er .We had a minor disturbance...
What do you mean, circumstances have changed?
B...But we'd prepared only one of them today!
So sell her some.
This lady boss, Akagumo, barged in and is demanding merchandise...
I thought there's no point if it's not given to humans!?
But... your "product"... that virus...
Then why not increase their number?


!!!
At first, we were a bit dubious, so we tested it on animals...
but all we got were small fry, nothing we could sell.
So Boss finally bit the bullet and bought a convict from somewhere far away
and *experimented* on him.
It was just like you promised! We got a Dracule that was A-rank in appearance, abilities, everything!!
It's just that we have to keep smuggling convicts in from other cities, so it takes time.

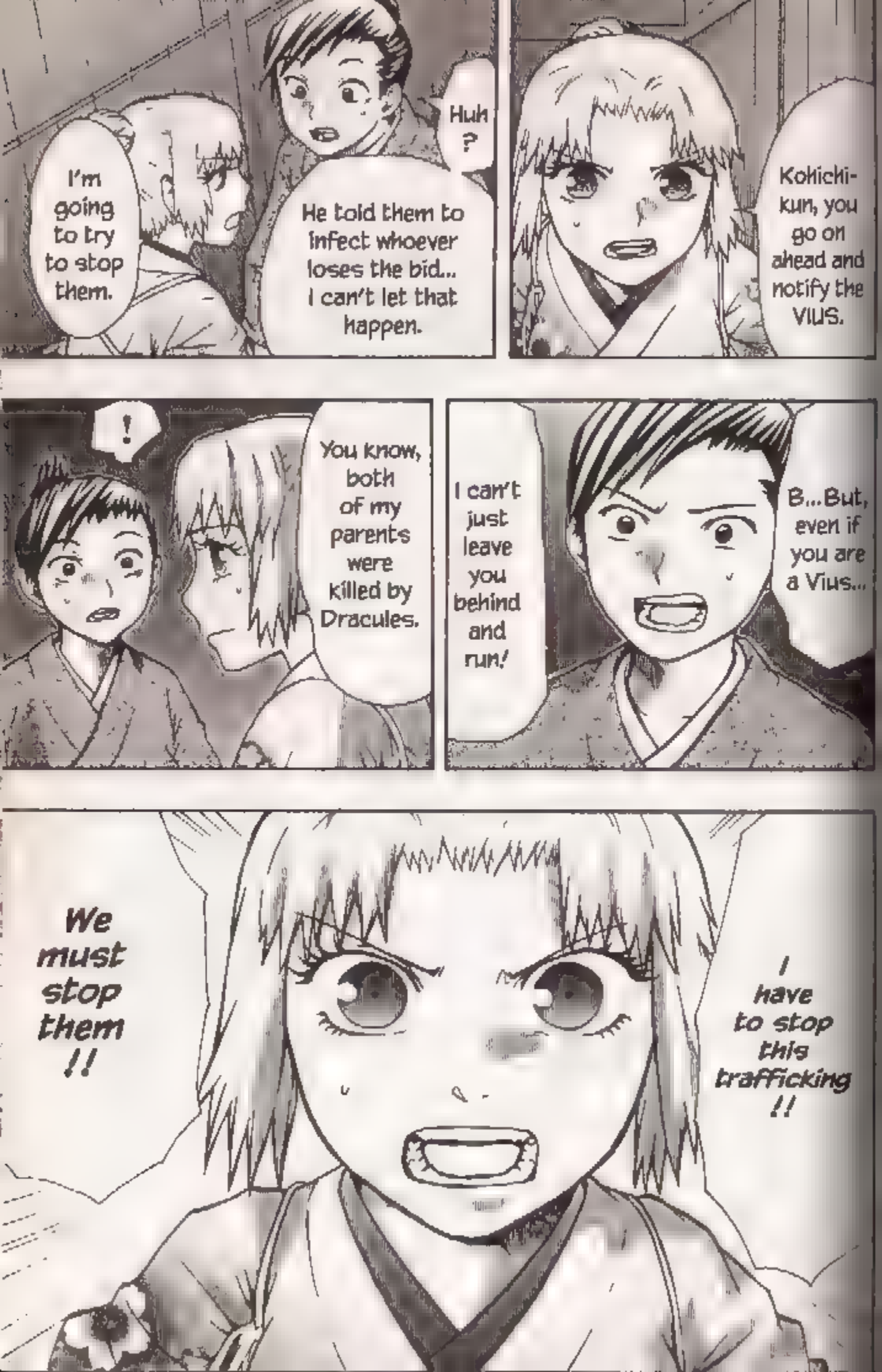
When was that, that accident where your transporter got infected?
Huh? Er, no...
Do you know *why* we sold that product to you?
It's because you guys just turned around and sold him as another Dracula merchandise.
gulp...
O... Oh, right...
!!!

And it is the reason I decided to bestow this fine specimen on the Yara Clan.
Do not fret. It was a perfectly reasonable act.
W...Well. There was nothing else we could really do
Wha... !? Y... You mean Kohichi !?
That's right, doesn't that man have any family? Use *them* as fodder.
Do not engage your conscience, and you'll obtain both wealth and power.
All you all need to do is *breed* the product and sell it off.
Humph... What a bother. Fine, why not use the losing bidder, then?
A... Aww, no, that's a bit much... I mean, his pa was a good man...
No matter what Boss said earlier, he wouldn't think of *killing* Kohichi.

What!?
B... But...
Come on, what's the worry?
There are plenty of humans to go around.
If they become Dracules, there won't be any evidence.
Then infect the side that loses and sell them to your next customer.
Neither side will be happy losing, right?
flicker
I can't believe this...
There shouldn't be anyone in that storage room...
tap
I sense something.
What's the matter?

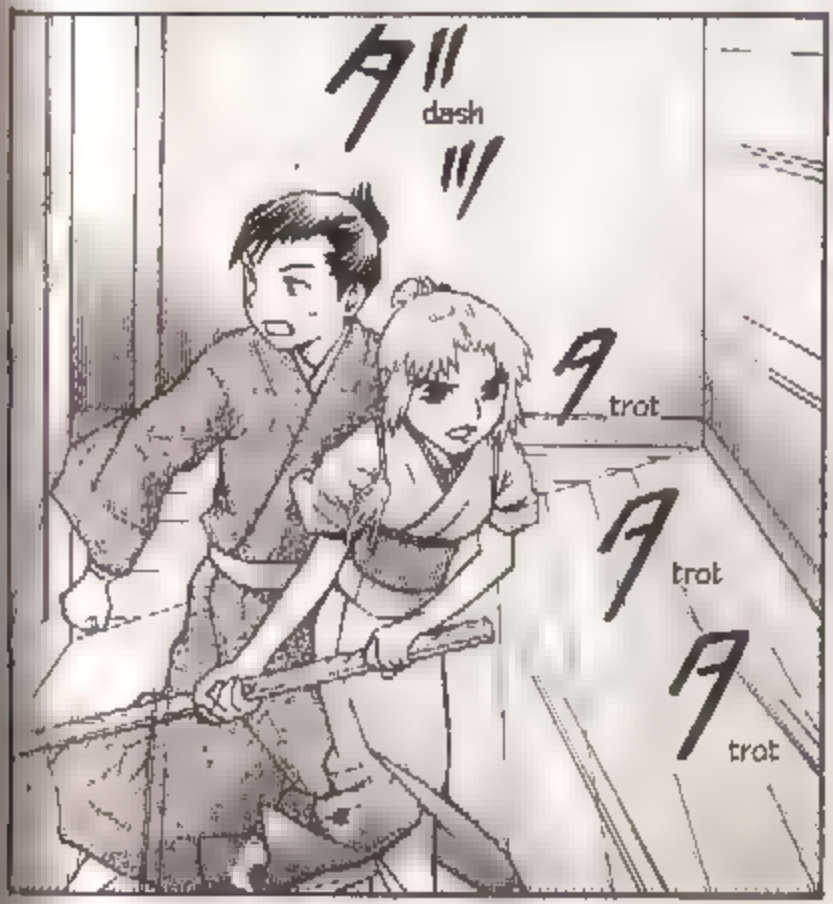

crack...
ドクン
ba-dump
ドクン
ba-dump
ドクン
ba-dump
swhoosh
ドクン
ba-dump
ドクン
ba-dump
Hey, someone's coming! Let's go!
トタ
step
トタ
step
トタ
step

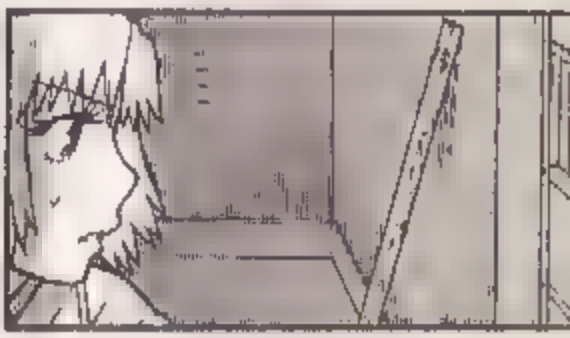
Me? Let's see...
It's not the money, right?
So what's in it for you all... for Daraku?
I enjoy the sinfulness of humankind... heh heh.
Let's just say... I'm indulging myself.
Dad... became a Dracule... and was sold...?
...he's gone.
phew

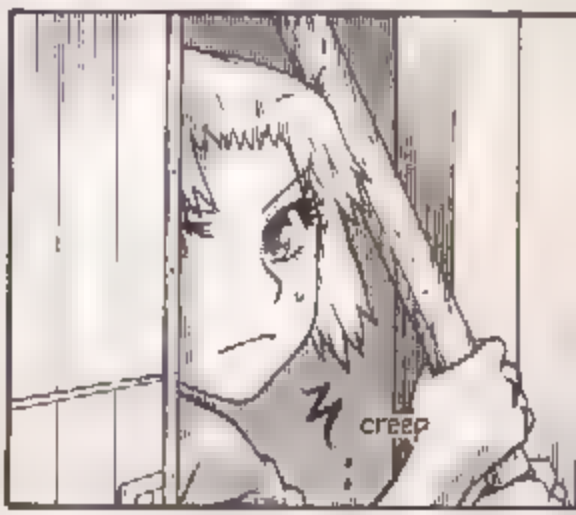

I'm going to try to stop them.
Huh ?
He told them to infect whoever loses the bid... I can't let that happen.
Kohichi-kun, you go on ahead and notify the Vius.
!
You know, both of my parents were killed by Dracules.
I can't just leave you behind and run!
B...But, even if you are a Vius...
We must stop them !!
I have to stop this trafficking !!

I won't.

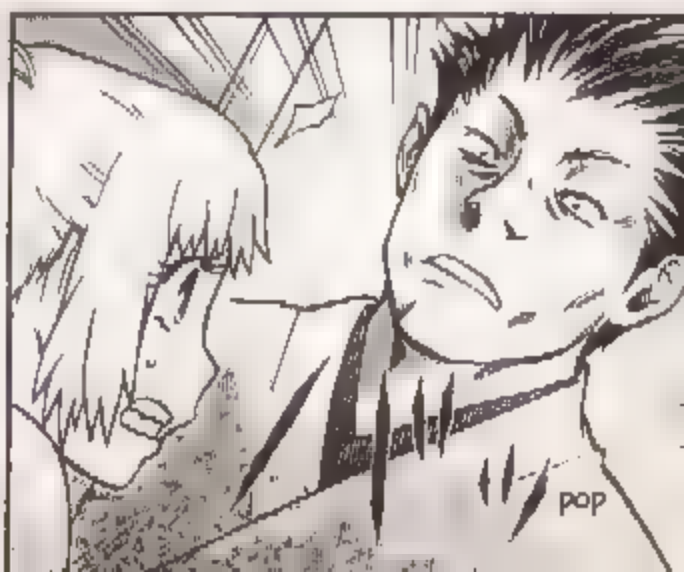
All right! Don't bite off more than you can chew, Leila-chan!


dash
trot
trot
trot



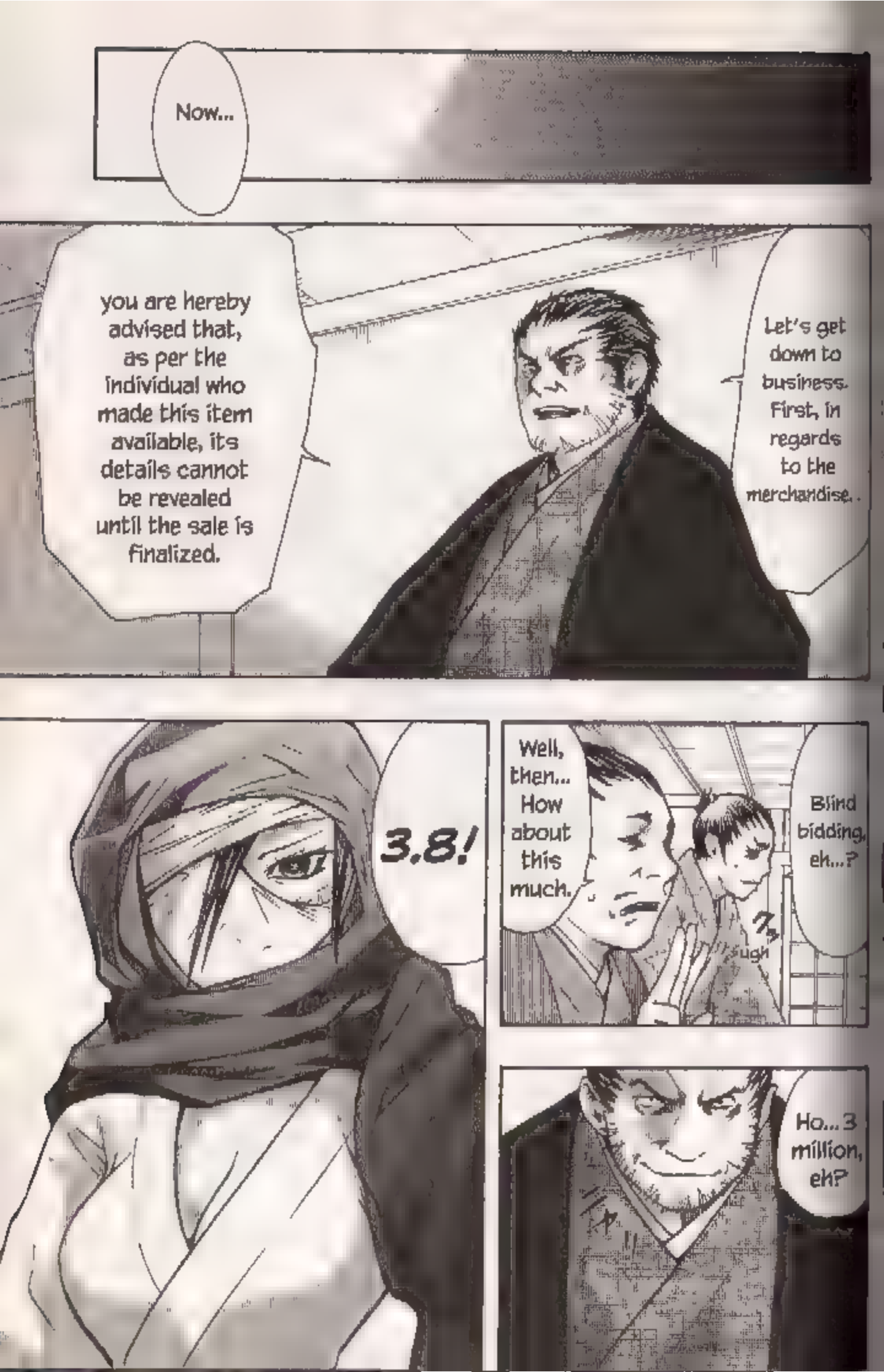

creep

Oh! You're...!


pop

eap
swish
whap
thud

Y-
Yup!
Be
safe!!
Wow...
Go!
rrip
slip
clash
I've
got
to
hurry
!!
spring
rrip


Now...
you are hereby advised that, as per the individual who made this item available, its details cannot be revealed until the sale is finalized.
Let's get down to business. First, in regards to the merchandise...
3.8!
Well, then... How about this much.
ugh
Blind bidding, eh...?
Ho... 3 million, eh?

!
I am touched that you trust the quality of our specimen...
Impressive opening bid.

4.5!

W... Well then, 4 million !!

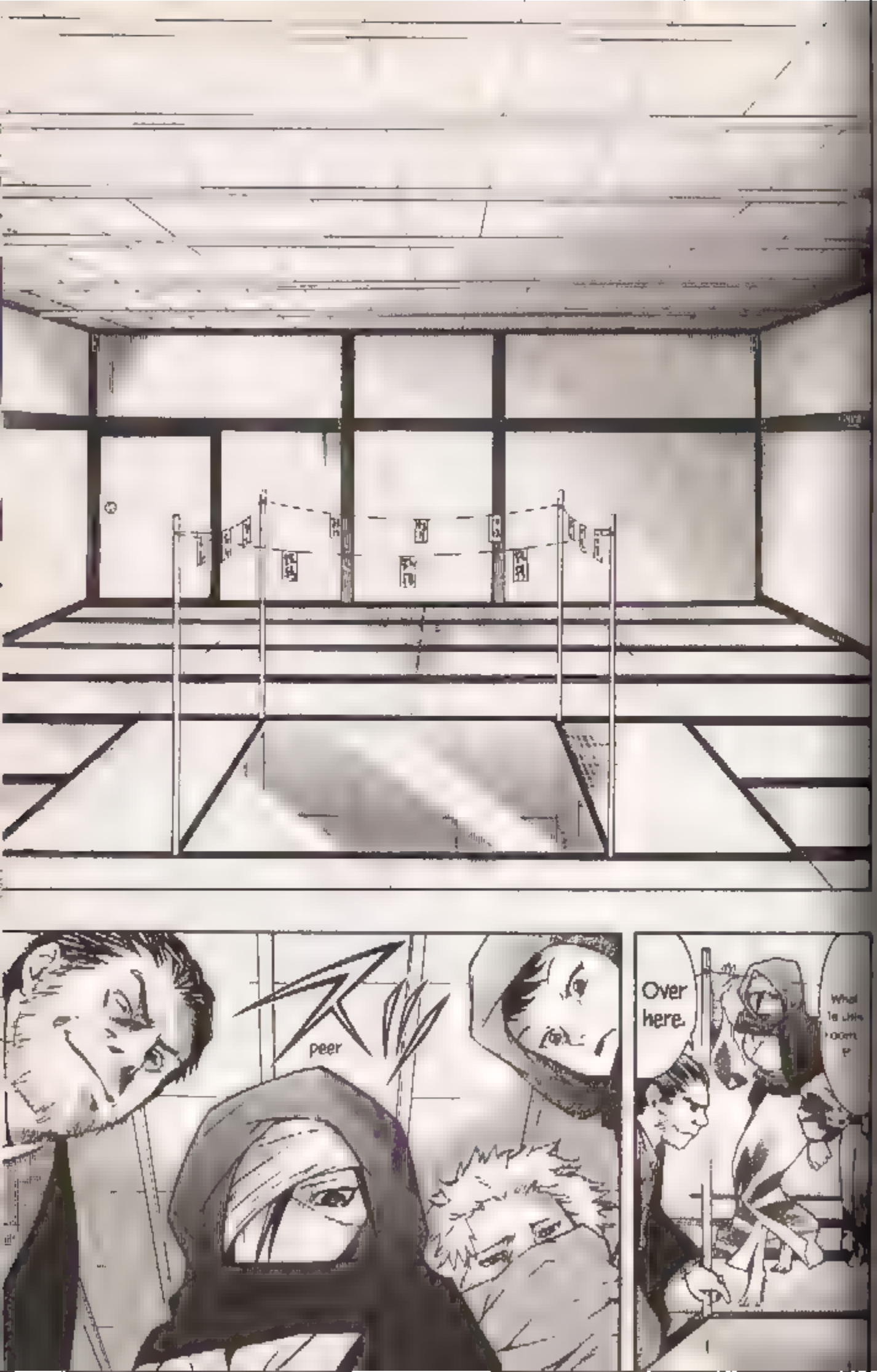
5!!

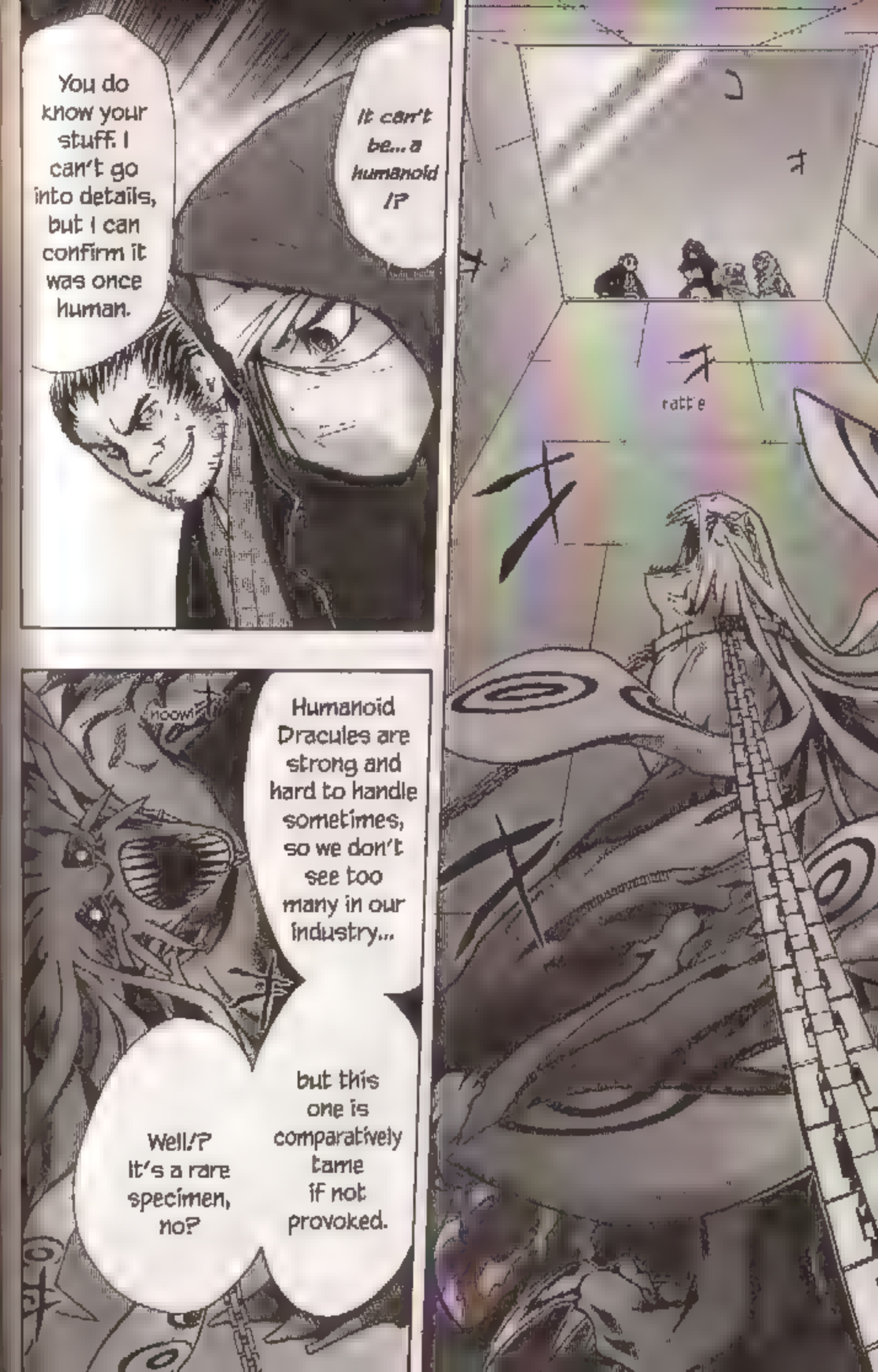
4... 4.8!!

!!?

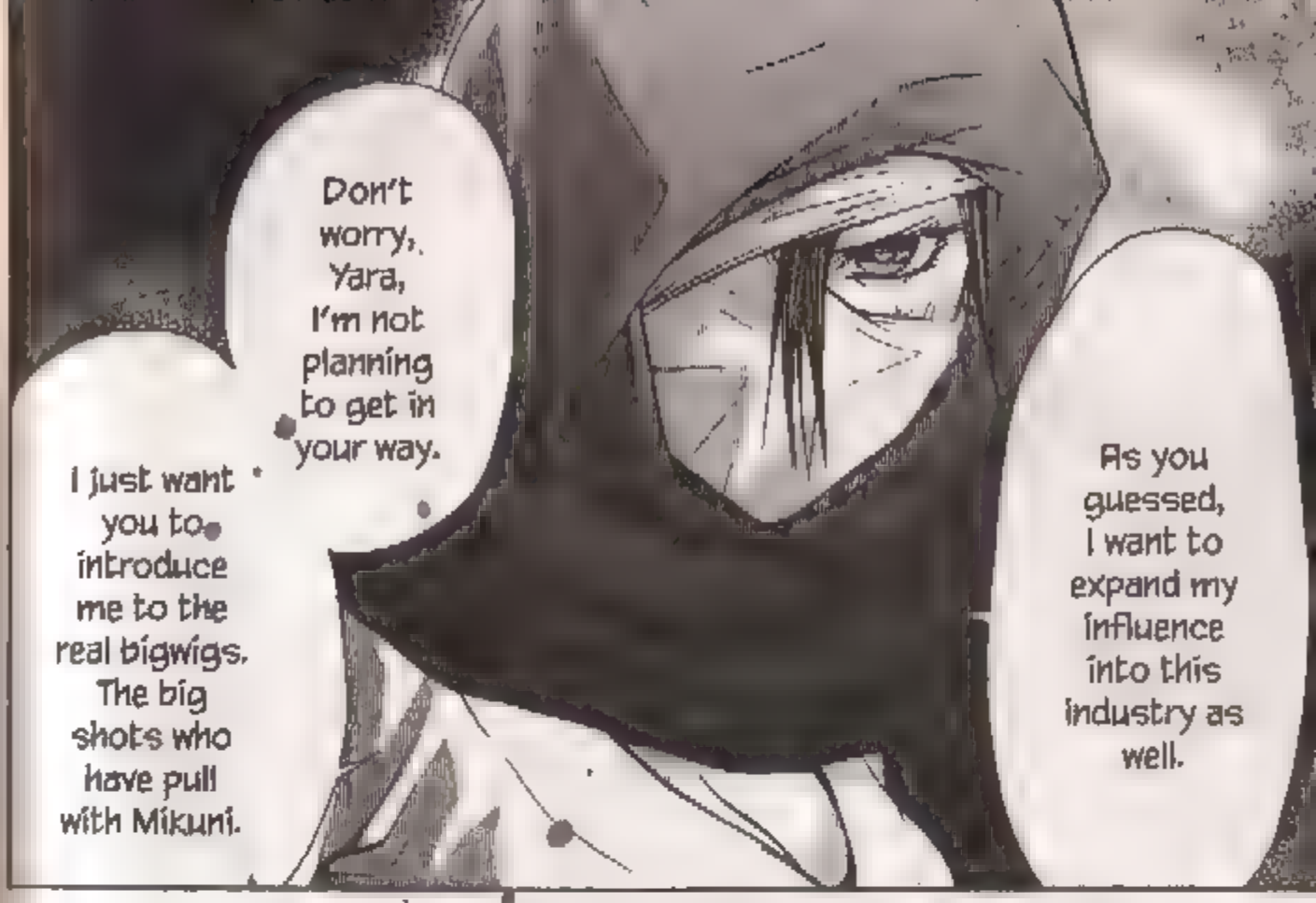
Boss.
Lord Yara!! W-We were talking with you first!! We cannot go back to our boss empty-handed!!
...
whisper
whispp
!!!
That's the thing. There aren't any spares.
You're late, American!! So, can we get more merchandise!?
Thus, I have decided to sell merchandise to both parties.
I apologize for my misgivings. I can see now from your bids that you are both sincere and trust in our specimens.
...Both of you.

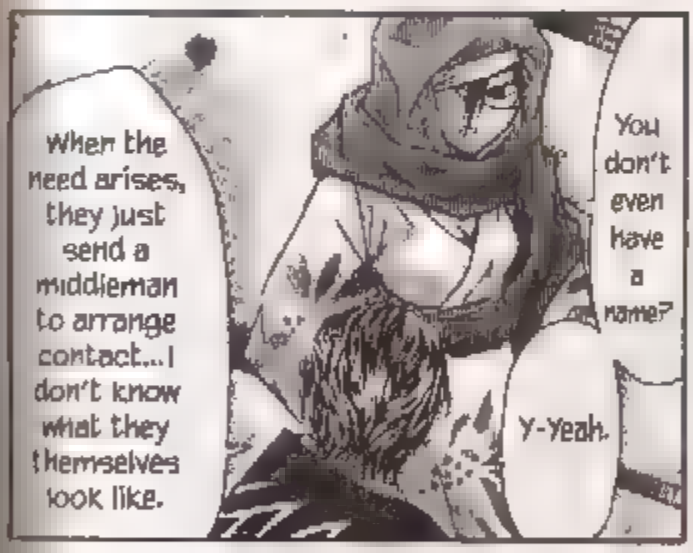
clop
clop
!
If you intend to purchase, pay up now.
The price is 5 million roku! Cash on the spot, no arguments.
peek
Let me show you the goods, then.
Very well.
sneer
This way.
creep
creep
...They're on the move... it looks like they haven't noticed that we've escaped yet.


peer
Over here.
What is this room?

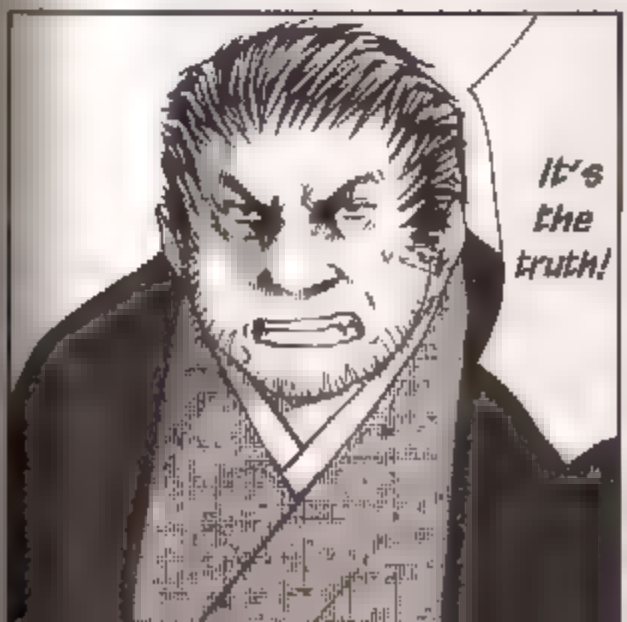

You do know your stuff. I can't go into details, but I can confirm it was once human.
It can't be... a humanoid!?
rattle
Humanoid Dracules are strong and hard to handle sometimes, so we don't see too many in our industry...
but this one is comparatively tame if not provoked.
Well!? It's a rare specimen, no?

?
You two, this way please.
Turning people into livestock, huh.
All right, so let me get down to my business now.
?
The real reason I'm laying down this much cash is that I've heard you've got strong connections with Mikuni.
I want to meet them.
You're not turning me down now, are you? I've prepped a whole lot more cash than your other customer and met my obligations.
U-Uh... well...
!


Don't worry, Yara, I'm not planning to get in your way.
I just want you to introduce me to the real bigwigs. The big shots who have pull with Mikuni.
As you guessed, I want to expand my influence into this industry as well.


When the need arises, they just send a middleman to arrange contact...I don't know what they themselves look like.
You don't even have a name?
Y-Yeah.

I mean, even I haven't met them face-to-face yet.
...Sorry... but that's... not going to be possible.


It's the truth!

You... better not be lying.

Are you... really Akagumo?
.....?
Oh/
Oh... uh, well...
!
!?
Where are the other two...?
launch
I'm not going to be in time!!
Shoot!! It's the other two!!

dash
You're... the girl from earlier !?
Huh!?
Aargh !
whap
whap

swing
MOVE!!
flutter
Wha!?
whirl

!!?
What's going on, Mikami Leila!?
Sh... She's strong... !!

That girl-child's a VIUS!! Grab her!!
Th-The Yara Clan are infecting people and selling them!!
If we don't hurry, the other two are going to turn into Dracules!! Please, let me go!!
Sh... Shut up, that's rubbish !!
Tie her up!!
!!

flap
Akane !!
Shôji!!
!?
dash
Huh?
Come!

Your merchandise is waiting over there in the middle of that platform.
What an odd platform...
Is it in this box?
禁
禁
禁
Flash
Get away from there!!

ka-klink
!!!?
vween
vween
vween
W...
Waaah!!
Rrowr
vween
vween
Wha...
What is
this...?
swish
POP

slam
Ugh!
hurl
hurl
I can't get through!! There's a spell cage up! Cut the notes!!
You're free!! Run!!
Aieee !!
snap
flutter

Waah
!!!
You!!

!!
Don't kill it, Mikami !!
Ugh!
whump
Yowl
Yelp
whump

strip
strip
... are you!?
Wh-
Who...
clod
clod
clod
clod
strip
flap
grab

Settle down! By VIUS law, I hereby apprehend you on charges of smuggling and attempted murder via intentional infection!!
Wha... you're VIUS !!?

10

thwap

She's just one woman! Kill her!!

kashwink

leap

whap

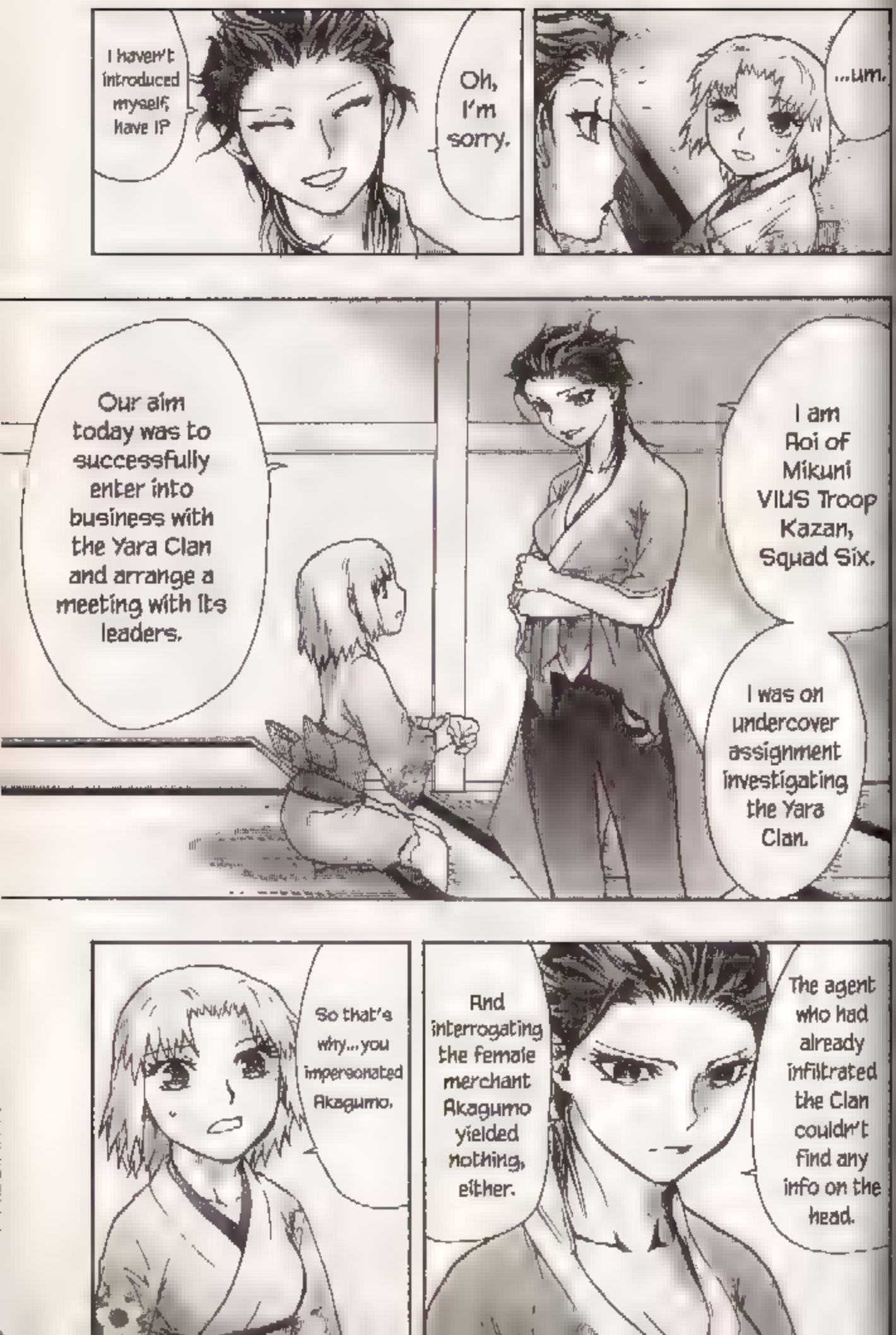
whap

whap

Argh!
!!
I am Aoi Shizue of VIUS Squad Six.
We will now escort you to Head-quarters!!

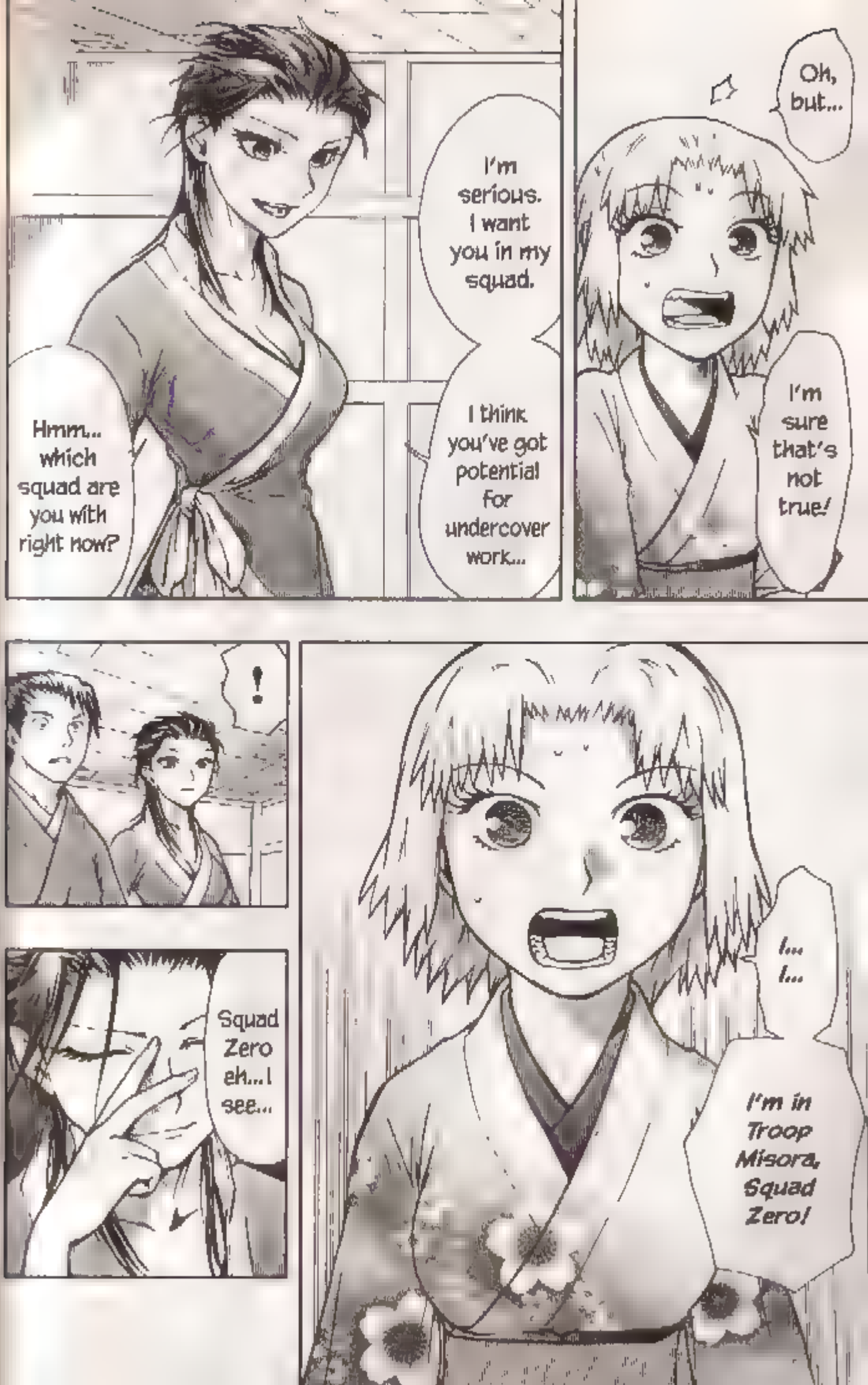
storm
Captain Kiura, over here!
VIUS!! Is this the mansion we were notified about!?
burst
!?

vween
U... Um...
vween
Leila !?
vween
Rowr
Rowr
Mrowr
Have you had your wounds checked out yet?
...I can't believe the Daraku are involved...
We'll get that Dracule to the lab. Your testimony will be invaluable.

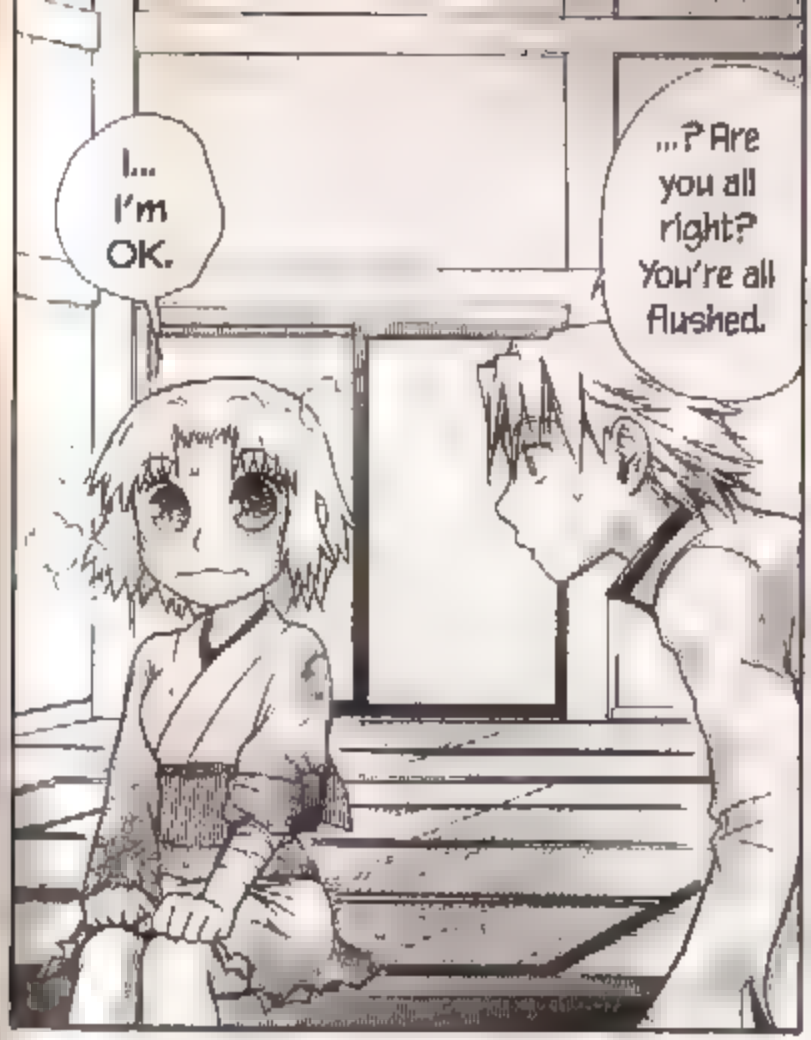

I haven't introduced myself, have I?
Oh, I'm sorry.
...um.
Our aim today was to successfully enter into business with the Yara Clan and arrange a meeting with its leaders.
I am Aoi of Mikuni VIUS Troop Kazan, Squad Six.
I was on undercover assignment investigating the Yara Clan.
So that's why... you impersonated Akagumo.
And interrogating the female merchant Akagumo yielded nothing, either.
The agent who had already infiltrated the Clan couldn't find any info on the head.

Aah, you were great, earlier.
Oh, you're the under-cover agent...
Takada
Yup. And in order to convince them she really was Akagumo, we had to put on a little act, which is where you come in.
HUH?
!?
Since Akagumo hates VIUS.
We wanted someone who could interact naturally with Akagumo.
The original scenario had Akagumo uncovering your true identity.
but we never imagined you would betray yourself.
Blush
You were selected because you are an "ace student" who follows rules and faithfully carries out missions...

Calling my own shots... so embarrassing...
and in front of a squad captain, too.
We also figured you would lead the boy out and flee with him,
but not that you would double back.
That's our gaffe for tangling with an honor student.
To be frank, I never imagined you would work out so well.
If it weren't for you, we probably wouldn't have caught the Yara Clan in the act of intentionally infecting people.
And those men might not have been saved, either.
Thank you.

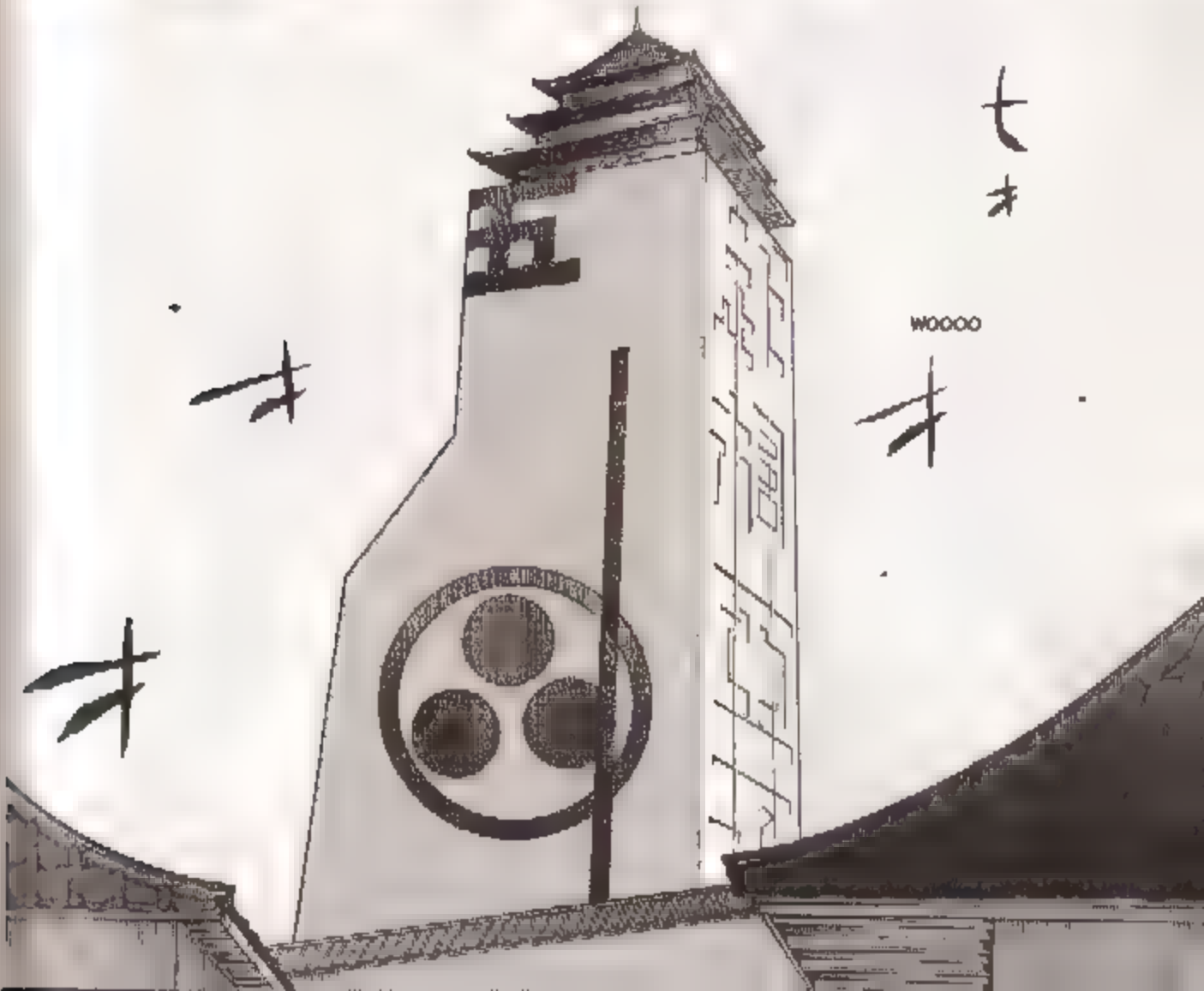

Hmm... which squad are you with right now?
I'm serious. I want you in my squad.
I think you've got potential for undercover work...
Oh, but...
I'm sure that's not true!
!
Squad Zero eh... I see...
I... I...
I'm in Troop Misora, Squad Zero!

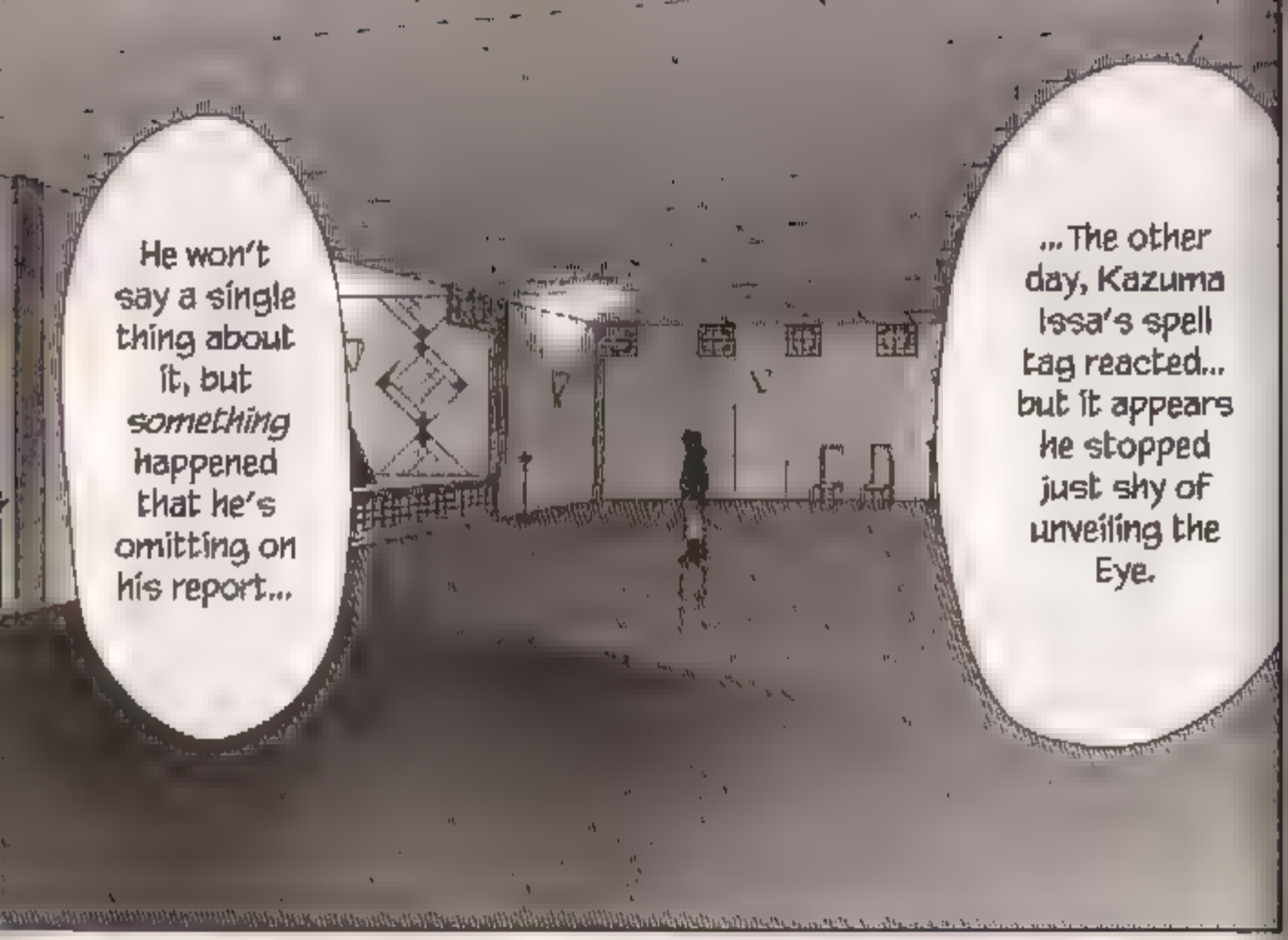
Kazuma-san would get mad at me for taking away a squad member who had accepted his personal offer!!
A-ha ha
Oh, well, then never mind!
Huh!?
Tell him I'm jealous he has such a brilliant squad member.
Say hi to Kazuma-san for me.


I... I'm OK.
...? Are you all right? You're all flushed.

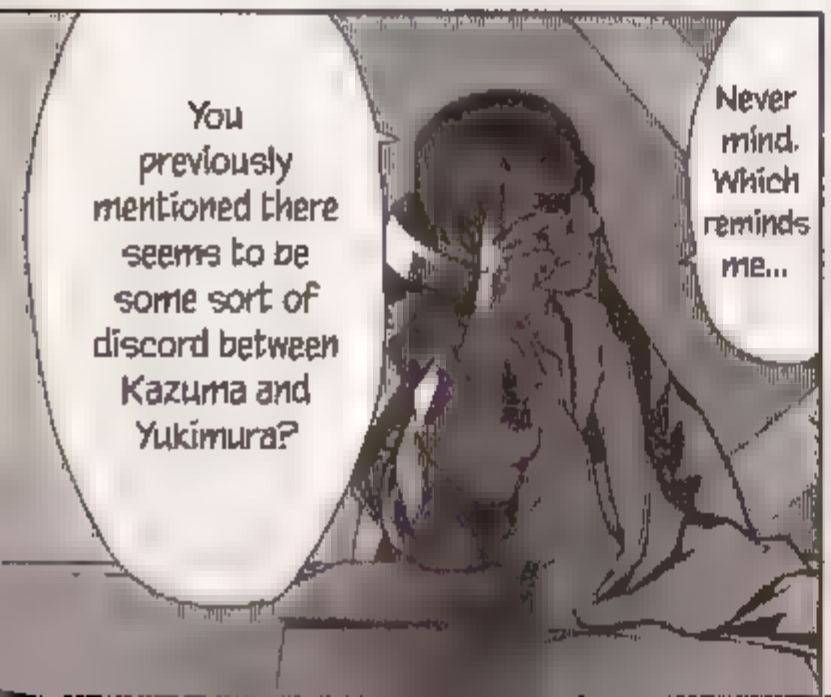
sneak

pop
Leila, it must have been so difficult.
How are your injuries?

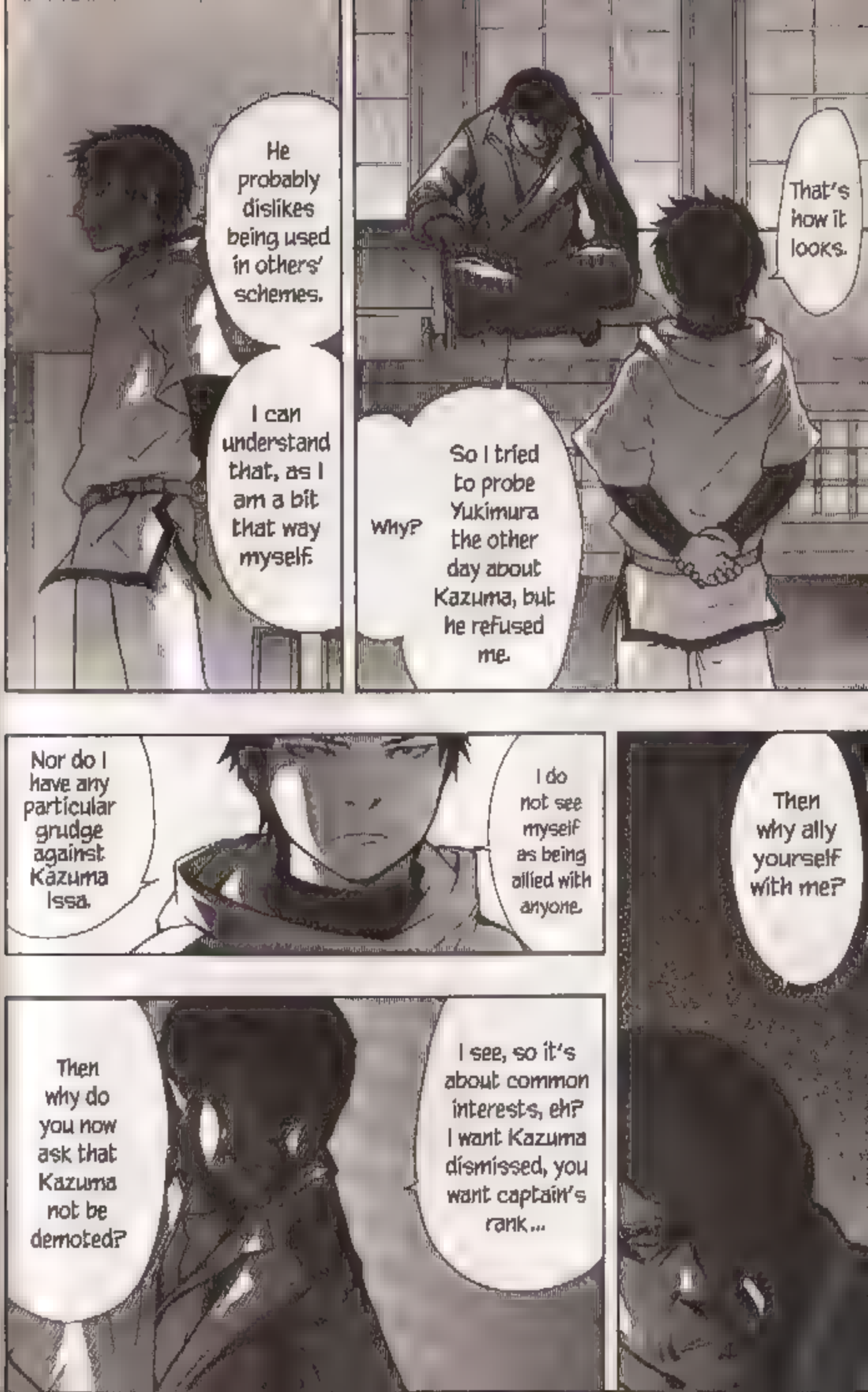

woooo

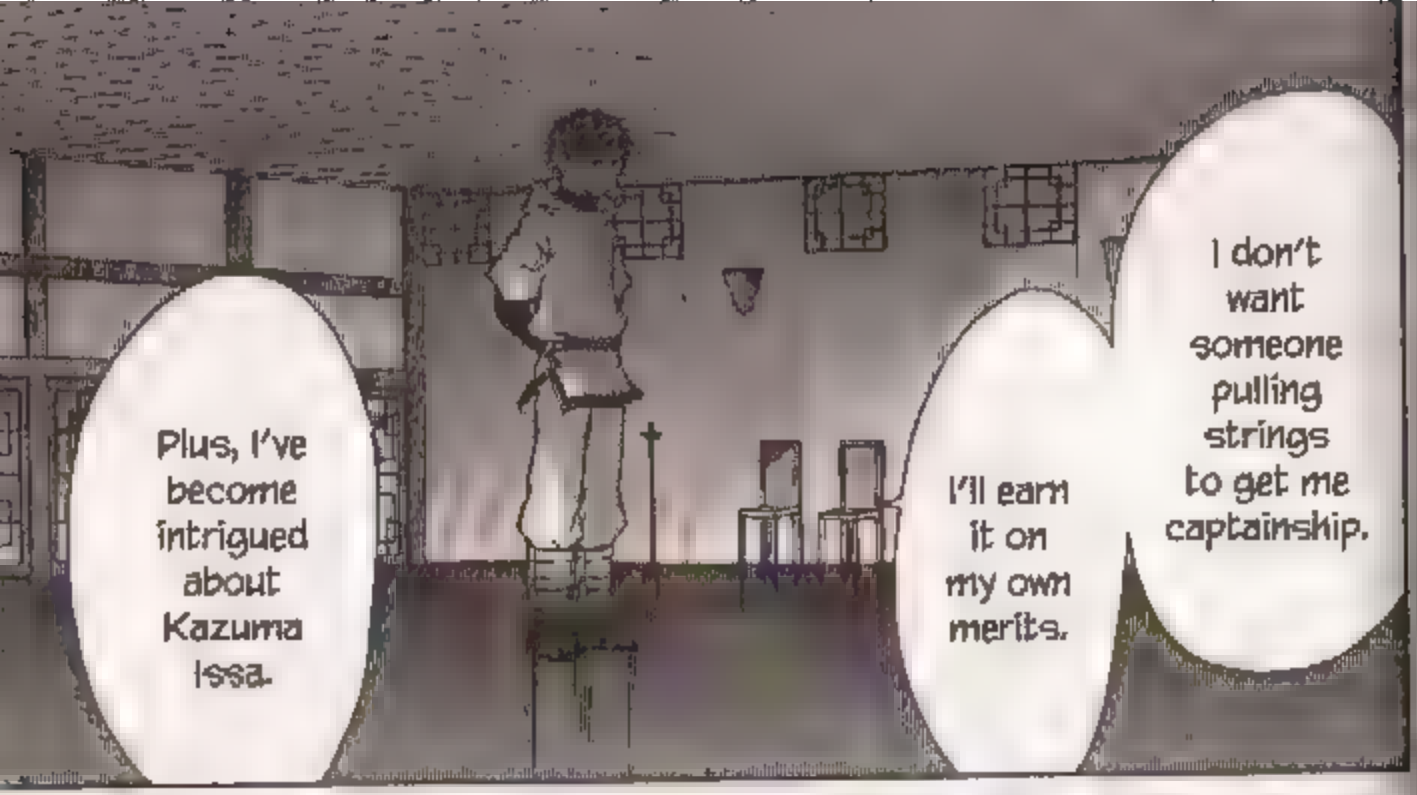

He won't say a single thing about it, but *something* happened that he's omitting on his report...
...The other day, Kazuma Issa's spell tag reacted... but it appears he stopped just shy of unveiling the Eye.

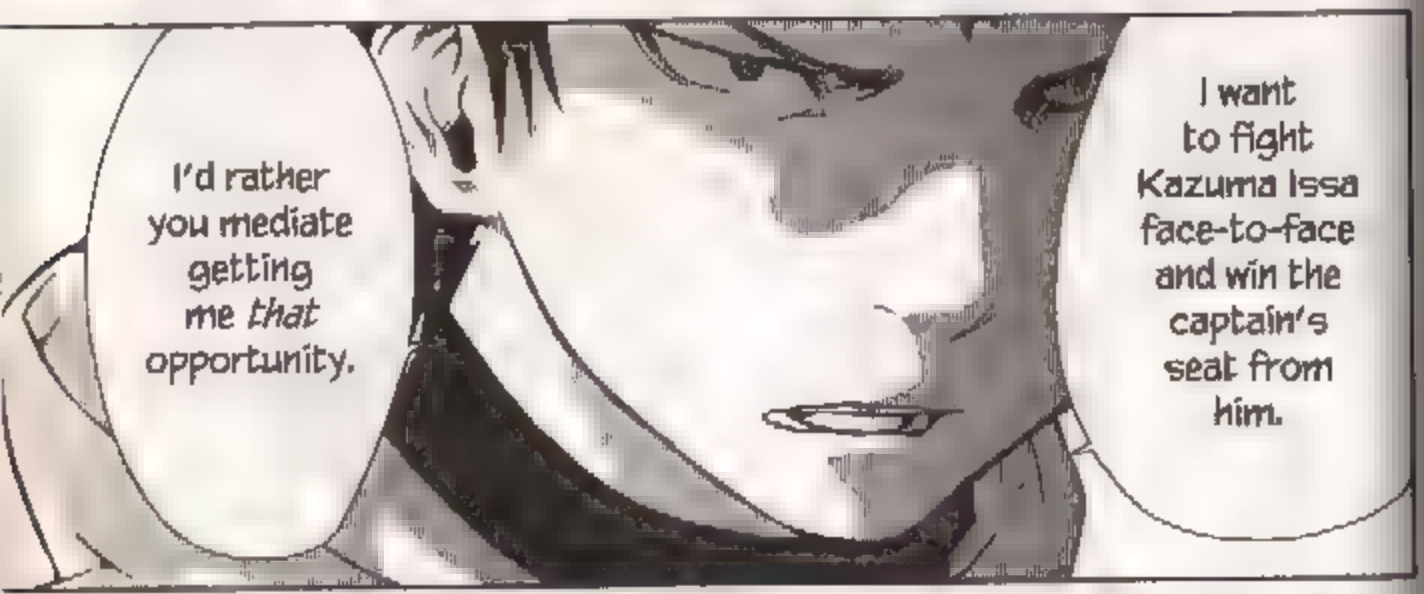
I do not know the details, but he *was* covered in animal wounds.


You previously mentioned there seems to be some sort of discord between Kazuma and Yukimura?
Never mind. Which reminds me...

If he *had* unveiled the Eye, he would have been exiled from Mikuni with or without a council meeting...


He probably dislikes being used in others' schemes.
I can understand that, as I am a bit that way myself.
Why?
So I tried to probe Yukimura the other day about Kazuma, but he refused me.
That's how it looks.
Nor do I have any particular grudge against Kazuma Issa.
I do not see myself as being allied with anyone.
Then why do you now ask that Kazuma not be demoted?
I see, so it's about common interests, eh? I want Kazuma dismissed, you want captain's rank...
Then why ally yourself with me?

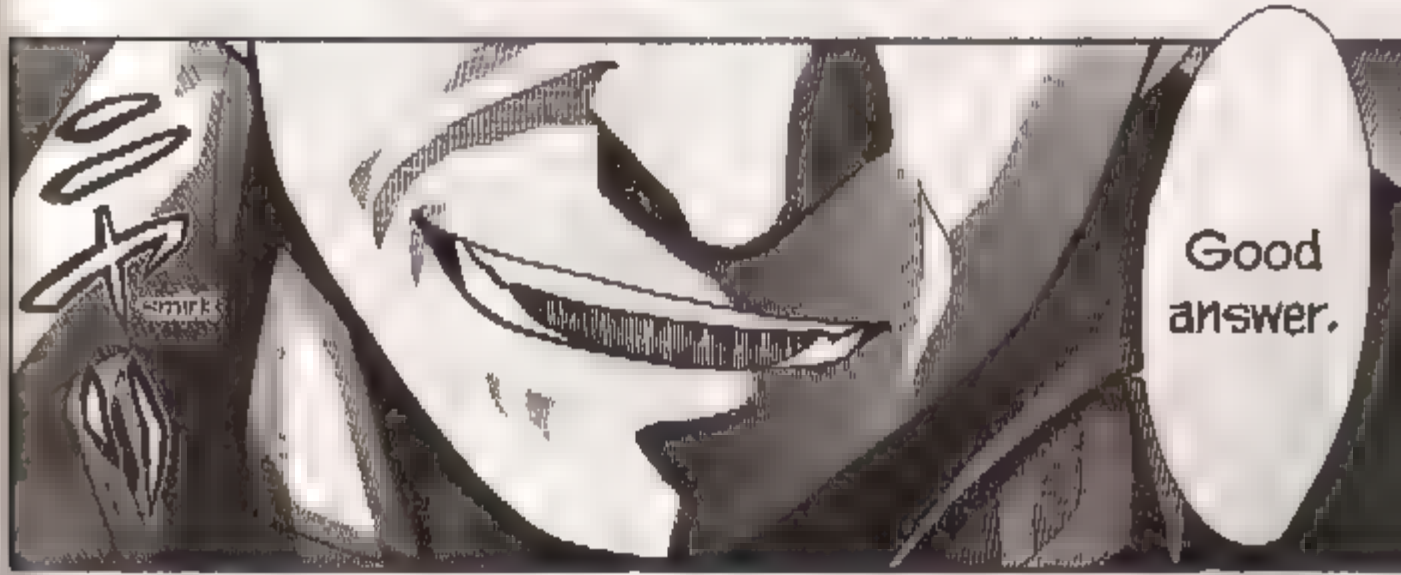

I don't want someone pulling strings to get me captainship.
I'll earn it on my own merits.
Plus, I've become intrigued about Kazuma Issa.


I want to fight Kazuma Issa face-to-face and win the captain's seat from him.
I'd rather you mediate getting me *that* opportunity.

The Dragon Eye... did you call it?

...You are confident you can beat him?

...to a fellow who's dependent on such a thing.
I have no intention of losing...

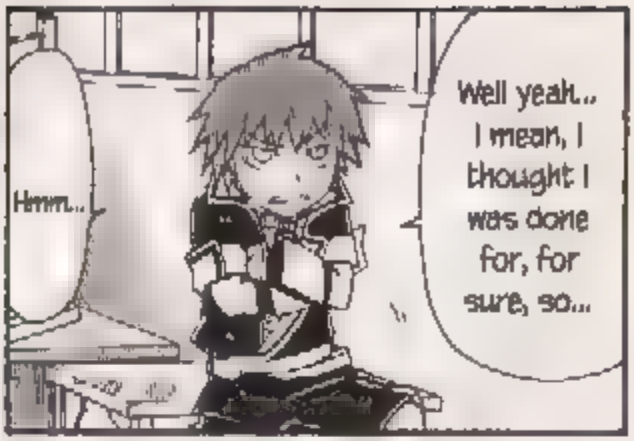

Good answer.

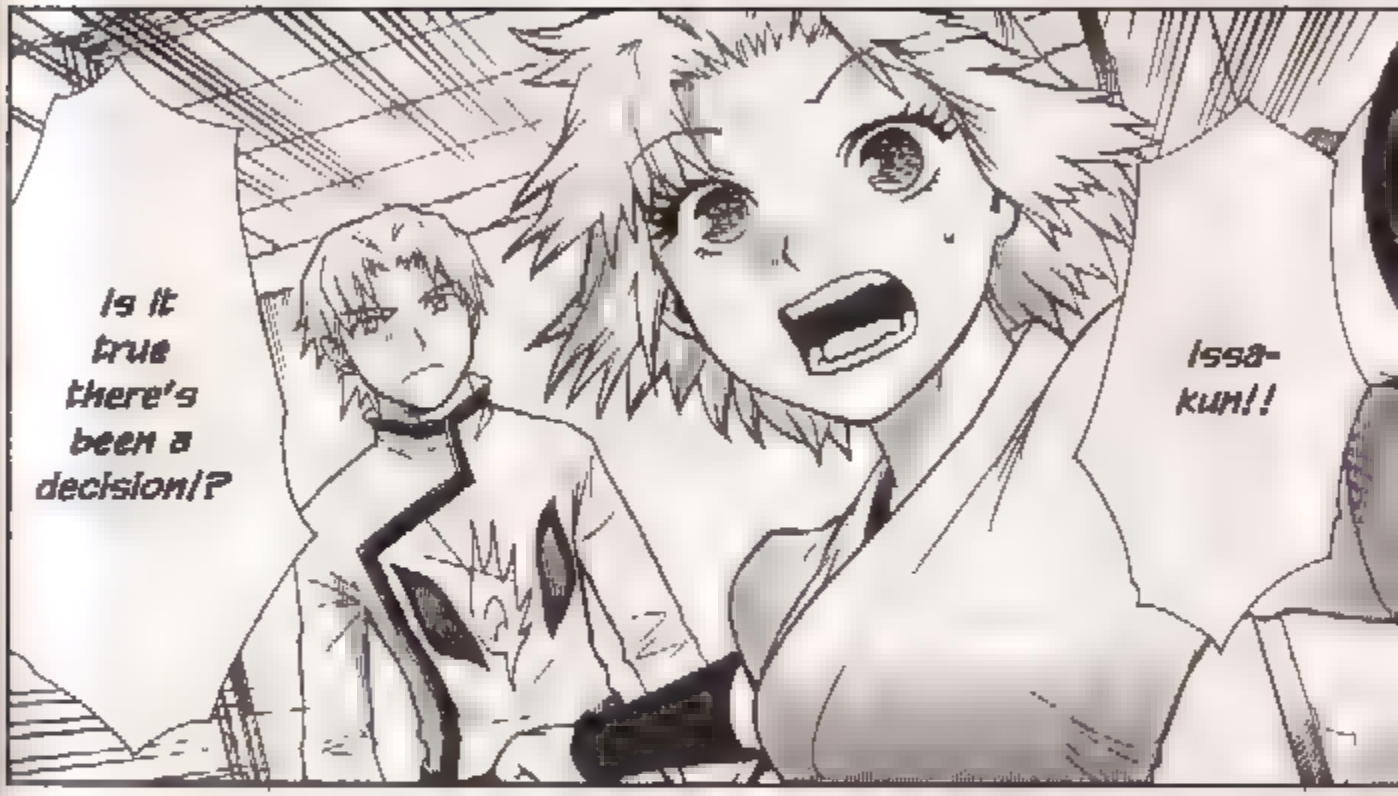
Squad Zero
Ready Room
Issa, are you here!? They've announced their decision!
slam
Hmm?

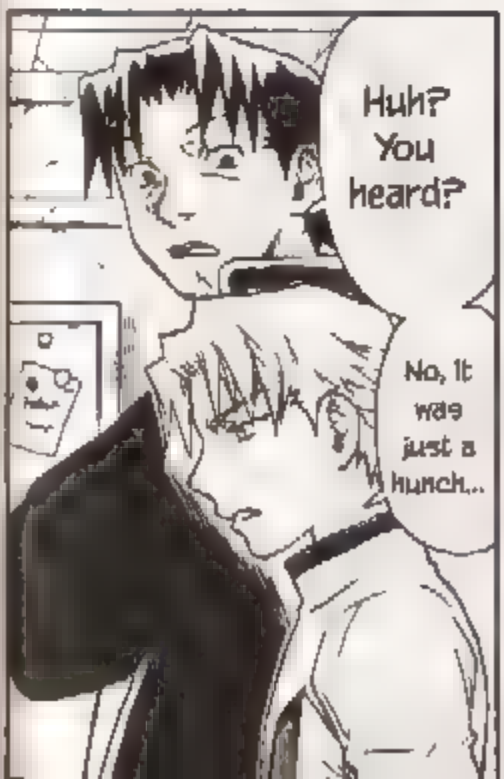
Come on! They've decided not to demote you!
Yeah, so what's going to happen to me?
This is no time to be eating!! The decision of the council!
Phew, safe again...
slurp
ズー
All three Elder Vice-Directors deferred from demoting you!
No rebuke, no censure at all!!
Oww!
slap
slap
Will you listen up!!

...You're kidding.
tingle
tingle
?
What's the matter? Aren't you happy?
You must be relieved!
...
I don't know what miraculous event took place. I still can't believe it myself.
This is the best outcome we could have hoped for from that meeting!!

Someone's up to something.


Hmm...
Well yeah... I mean, I thought I was done for, for sure, so...


Is it true there's been a decision!?
Issa-kun!!


Huh? You heard?
No, it was just a hunch...

...So you're still captain?

Huh!? You finished your mission?
We just heard.

Are you!? Or are you not captain !?
Well, so!?
Well, it looks like I won't have to retake the enlistment exam.
Dragon Eye 4 END

Dragon Eye

Thank you very much to everybody that bought volume 4!!

For this volume, Issa will answer some of the questions that you all have sent in! Those whose queries have been printed shall receive a small gift! But don't expect anything too grand! And please buy volume 5!

Fujiyama

My wonderful staff
- Uemura Erika
- Ueda Satomi
- Kamimura
- Dantani Ai

Hi all, thanks for sending in so many letters! So here goes with the first question! Which reminds me, there were quite a few questions for Sakuraba.

1. What is the relationship between Issa-kun and Sakuraba-san like? Masuo-san
2. What does Sakuraba-san wear when he's off duty? Berigoromo-san
3. What does Sakuraba-san do when off duty...like, hobby-wise? Nozaki-san

I don't really think you'll get interesting answers asking Sakuraba about his hobbies!? On the other hand, *I'd* tell you all sorts of things about me. Well, never mind. He and I have known each other since we took the same enlistment exam. So we're classmates, year mates! In terms of what he wears off duty... he's always wearing the same thing. I bet he even goes to bed in his uniform!? Plus, he's been working nonstop recently, so he doesn't seem to have any hobbies. He's really boring!! Next question!

Where does the Squad Zero dog usually sleep? Also, how old is Aoi-san? Sakiware Spoon-san

That dog is always in Zero's Ready Room, so I think he sleeps in there too. But it's not like anyone keeps an eye on him, so maybe he wanders around at night... The only command he knows is sit, so. In terms of Aoi... I wonder. I don't think she'd tell me if I asked. Hmm... as far as I can remember, she enlisted later than I did.

A question for Issa! Can you see with the Dragon Eye? Also, if one were to touch the scar on your forehead, would it feel squishy like an eyeball? If so, I bet it would hurt if someone snapped his or her finger there. Amber Cateyes

Hey! Finally, a question for me... all I can say is that the Dragon Eye is not one of my eyes, so I've never used it to look at anything. Also, my scar is not squishy! The Eye was implanted using very special surgery, so to most folk it just looks like a plain old scar. Either way, I wouldn't let anyone snap his or her finger at my forehead anyway!

I love the battle scenes in ***Dragon Eye!!*** I especially like Yukimura because I think his two-sword technique is real cool. Oh, so my question is, did Yukimura train under a certain style like Leila's "Shimon School Sacred Blade"?

Hmm, I think I better ask Fujiyama this one. Give me a sec... (3 minutes pass) OK, huh, "Yukimura is self-trained, so he doesn't actually follow any particular school or style." So he's like me!

Are there VIUS other than just Sôsei-san who have the Virus emblem sewn on their uniforms? Oda-san

Oh! I can answer this one. If I remember correctly, what he wears is a special dress uniform issued to those who score especially high on their enlistment exam. There are several different emblems, so I'm sure there are other folks who have them too.

Please explain the how-to of the strap for Issa's *Kongôreitetsu* [Diamond Sacred Steel] and what happened to it (it disappears around page 58 of volume 3), and how the anti-virus masks work. And what is the prospective retail price of the *Hikaritsûshin* Twin Sticks of Light? Blue Uniform-san

Interesting question! How the masks and my blade's strap work...I've enclosed diagrams, so take a look at them! And, where my strap went, huh. You've got sharp eyes! I'm always losing it. Once in a while, the Clean-up Division folks find it and bring it back to me. I've got a ton of replacement straps in my room, and when I run out, I just have them make more. But because I go through so many of them, I have to pay for them myself! I wonder if that's why I can't seem to save up much money,... We should ask Kajiyama about the *Hikaritsûshin* Twin Sticks of Light.

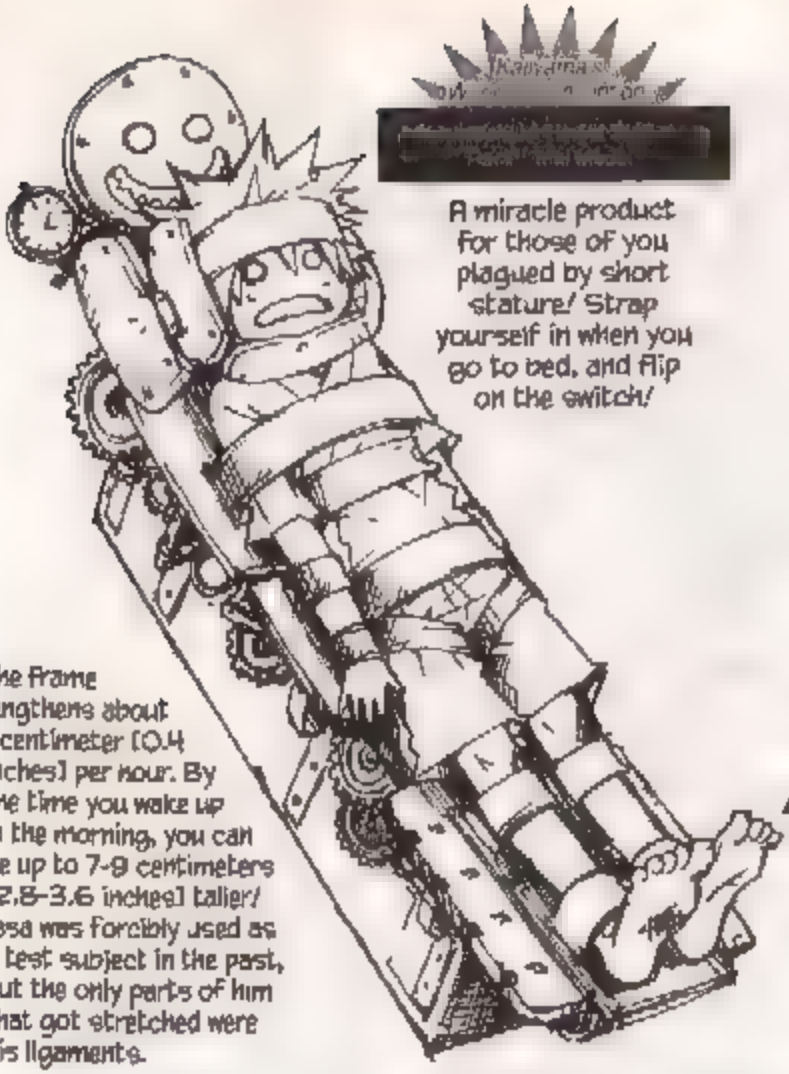
Keep those questions coming! What, you want to buy the *Hikaritsûshin*? It's patent is still pending, you know! But for those willing to put down an advance deposit, I'll sell you a set of 5 for the special price of 1000 roku! Although I eventually plan to sell them at a flat rate of 100 roku each! By then, they'll be such a mega-hit that they'll be continuously sold out!

So he says. Uh, onto the final question...

Please show us more of Kajiyama-san's other inventions! I-want-to-see-*Dragon Eye*-animated-san

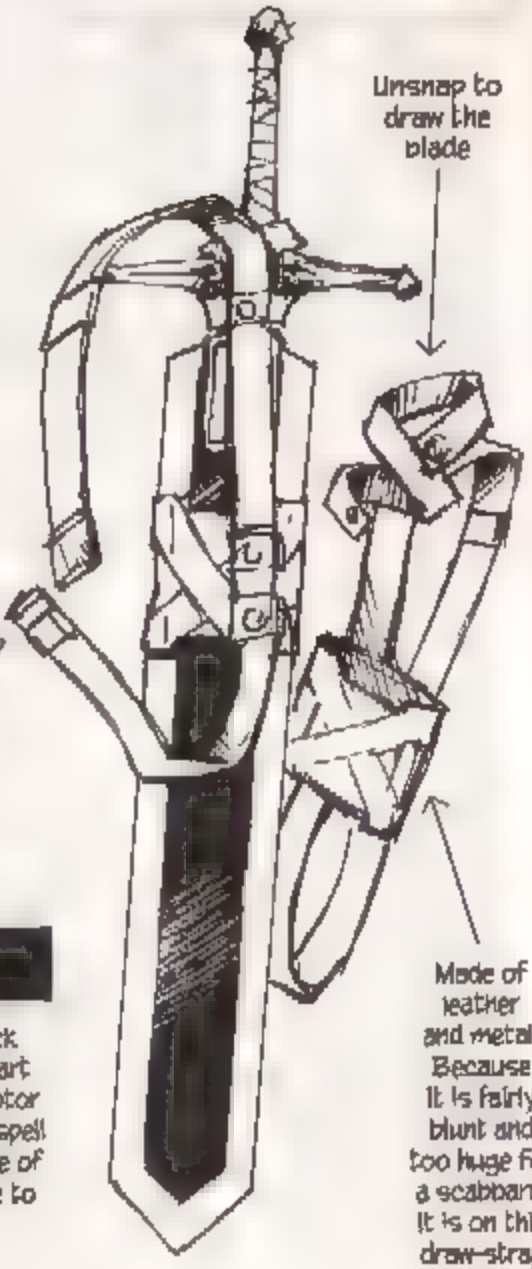
Good one...

Once you get him started, he'll go on forever, so just look at the diagram, OK? Well then, thanks, all of you!



A miracle product for those of you plagued by short stature! Strap yourself in when you go to bed, and flip on the switch!

The frame lengthens about 1 centimeter (0.4 inches) per hour. By the time you wake up in the morning, you can be up to 7-9 centimeters (2.8-3.6 inches) taller! Issa was forcibly used as a test subject in the past, but the only parts of him that got stretched were his ligaments.



Unsnap to draw the blade

Made of leather and metal. Because it is fairly blunt and too huge for a scabbard, it is on this draw-strap system.

Switch

Once the switch in the back is pressed on, an internal part called the Rotating Spell Motor starts spinning and a small spell film forms at its head. Inside of the spell film, the air is safe to breathe.

Seeking Correspondence

We await further questions and concerns!

Seeking all questions and concerns about *Dragon Eye!* Issa will answer your questions! Keep them pouring in!!

What to submit

Please send us your question(s), address, name (and a pen name, if you have one), age, school year (or type of work), and phone number or e-mail address. If your submission is printed, we will send you a small present (if you are e-mailing us your question(s) please put "Dragon Eye Q&A Corner" in the subject line).

*Furthermore, please be aware that all submissions, including your personal information, will be handed over to the author, so send us your questions at your own risk.

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Otowa 2-12-21 Kōdansha Monthly
Shōnen Sirius Attn: "Dragon Eye Q&A Corner" sirius@kodansha.co.jp

END DRAGON EYE Volume 4.

TRANSLATION NOTES

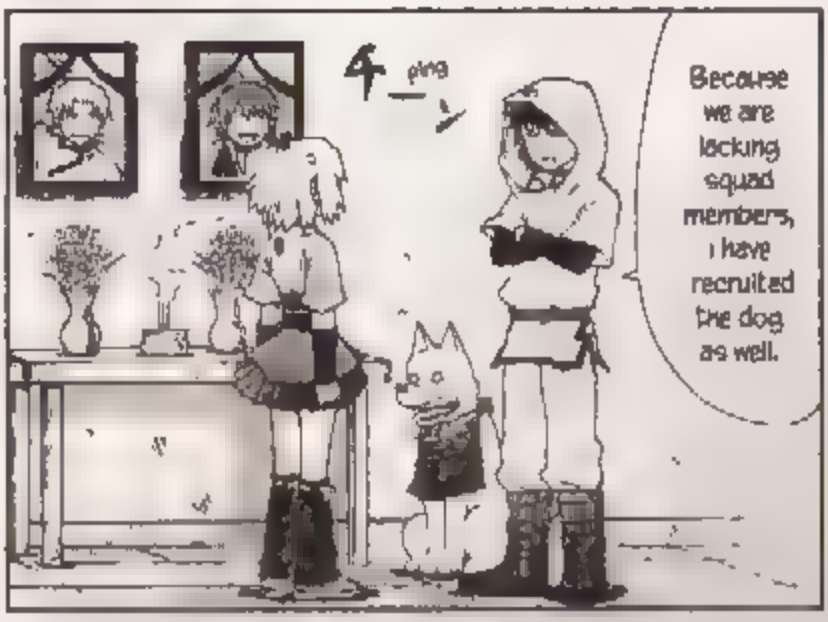
Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Troop designation symbols, various pages

Most VIUS members wear their troop designations somewhere on their uniforms, and equipment and objects sometimes bear stamps as well. For example, on the cover, Issa's sleeve has Troop Misora stitched on it, and he also has a flag with the character "zero" tied around his left arm.

Funerary rites, page 49

In Leila's dream sequence, Sôsei and Issa were killed in the initial earthquake. Their photographs have been hung before a makeshift altar where a pair of flower vases and a bowl with burning incense have been offered, and the sound heard in the background is that of a Buddhist altar bell being struck.



Street stalls, page 72

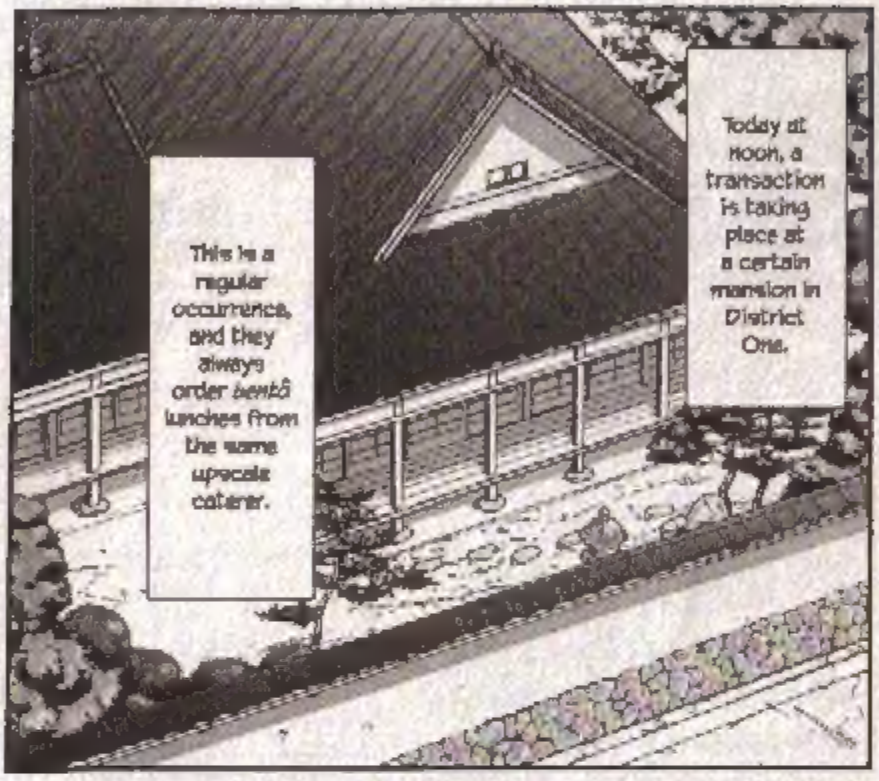
Open-air food stands are still very common in Japan, especially in commercial districts and around train stations. They allow people to grab a quick and often very cheap meal. Some don't even have seating, giving new meaning to the phrase "eating on the go."

Geta, page 97

Geta are traditional Japanese wooden clogs that have been around for centuries and visually resemble flip-flops or sandals. They have a wooden base of variable height (those low to the ground are more commonly known as *zôri*) and shape with a fabric or rope thong. Although associated more with *kimono* or *yukata*, men especially can be seen wearing *geta* with Western clothing. The usual two "teeth" attached to the base result in the distinctive clacking or clopping sound made when walking in *geta*.

Bentô lunches, page 101

Bentô are single-portion boxed meals associated in the United States with take-out and eat-in Japanese restaurants, but they actually have a long history that dates back to the 12th century. Wooden lacquer boxes were first used for these meals around the 16th century. *Bentô* can also refer to home-packed meals. Catered boxes can be quite elaborate, with food cut and/or arranged to resemble seasonal flowers or leaves, or to make pictures and patterns.


This is a regular occurrence, and they always order *bentô* lunches from the same upscale caterer.
Today at noon, a transaction is taking place at a certain mansion in District One.

Tanuki, page 108

Tanuki are raccoon-like mammals native to Japan and southeastern Siberia that are actually more closely related to the domestic dog; hence, they are known as "raccoon dogs." Along with the fox (*kitsune*), *tanuki* have played a major and frequent role in Japanese folklore, most often as a trickster character. When "Akagumo" refers to Yara Clan members as *tanuki*, she is alluding to legends where the creatures cheated merchants with leaves magically disguised as paper money.

Includes special extras after the story!

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